

# Nearly 200 attend Gate of Heaven Annual Birthday Tea

Nearly 200 guests attended the Annual Birthday Tea hosted by the Altar and Rosary Society at Gate of Heaven Church in Dallas on Sept. 30.

Highlights included tables beautifully decorated for each month of the year and a birthday table.

This year's tables themes were Valentine's Day, March Happenings, Easter Resurrection, Most

Holy Trini-Tea, Fortnight for Freedom, Casino Night, Welcome Autumn, Halloween, Giving Thanks, The Most Wonderful Time of the Year, God Bless the USA and Happy Birthday To You.

Reverend Daniel A. Toomey started the afternoon with a blessing.

Altar and Rosary President Renee Benedetti welcomed the

crowd and introduced Donna Trosky, singer.

Following the entertainment, refreshments were served and a raffle and door prizes were awarded.

Chairwomen for the event were Renee Benedetti, Judy Adams, Dede Scafella, Nancy Restaino, Sharon Lubmis, Marianne Cogan and Dolly Hoffman.



Shown here at the annual Birthday Tea hosted by the Altar and Rosary Society at Gate of Heaven Church in Dallas are, from left, first row, Valerie Aiello, Mary Ann Roberts, Rose Schmid, Renee Benedetti. Second row, Rev. Daniel A. Toomey, Trish Strazdus, Karla Haydem, Kathy Selner. Third row, Sharon Lubmis, Marianne Cogan, Angie Murray, Sunny Cesarini, Amy Huntington. Fourth row, Debbie Konnick, Margaret Kopko. Fifth row, Sheryl Gardner-Yeust, Carol Carroll, Linda Scholl, Karen DeCesaris and Bette Gillespie.

## OBITUARIES

**EVANS** - Richard G. (Dick) Jr., 73, of Dallas, died Friday, October 5, 2012, at his home.

He was born in Wilkes-Barre, was a graduate of GAR High School at age 16, Class of 1956, and was a member of the marching band. He received his bachelor's degree in Commerce and Finance from Wilkes University and attended the University of Hawaii.

He served his country in the United States Air Force.

His family was the founders and former owners of WYZZ radio station, where he served as vice president. He and his wife, Mary Lou, were the founding partners of Sew Fine Draperies and Interiors.

He was a member of the Irem Temple Shrine, Dallas Lions Club, board member for the Back Mountain Library and Auction, a board member of the Luzerne Merchants Association and a member of the Newberry Home Owners Association.

Surviving are his wife, the former Mary Lou McKeown, Dallas; sons, Dr. Richard III, Lewisberry, Robert J., Eagan, Minn.; and Justin, Spring Hill, Fla.; daughter, Susan Naperkowski, Ashley; brother, Robert L., Wilkes-Barre; 10 grandchildren; nieces and his "best friend," Magic.

Memorial donations to Back Mountain Library Association, 96 Huntsville Road, Dallas, PA 18612.1

**FOSTER** - George G., 99, of Lake Silkworth, died Sunday, October 7, 2012, at the Meadows Nursing Center, Dallas.

He was born November 27, 1912, in Thompson, Conn., and resided in Lehman for most of his life.

He graduated from South Royalton High School, Royalton, Conn., in 1932. He was employed as a cattle herdsman for Sordoni Farms, Harveys Lake, for many years.

Surviving are his son, Raymond, of St. Petersburg, Fla.; daughter, Patricia L. Spencer, of Leesburg, Fla.; seven grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren.

**FREEMAN** - Clarence "Butch" Freeman, 62, of Harveys Lake, died Sunday, September 30, 2012, at the Hospice Community Care In-Patient Unit in South Wilkes-Barre, after a long battle with Multiple Myeloma.

He was born in Wilkes-Barre, was a 1968 graduate of E.L. Meyers High School, attended Wilkes University and graduated from Temple University School of Pharmacy.

For 34 years, he owned and operated the Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy in Wilkes-Barre.

Surviving are his wife of 42 years, the former Marguerite "Peg" Wilkie; daughter, Heather Radel, of Harveys Lake; son, Brent, of Philadelphia; three grandchildren.

Memorial donations to Medical Oncology Associates, Prescription Fund, 382 Pierce St., Kingston, PA, 18704.

**GESKEY** - Frank A., died Tuesday, October 2, 2012, at home.

He was born August 7, 1949 in Wilkes-Barre but lived most of his life in Orange, Franklin Township. Upon graduation from Dallas High School, he entered Car-

penters Union Local 514. His apprenticeship was interrupted when he was called to serve in the Vietnam War, where he completed 18 months of active duty with the U.S. Navy Sea Bees.

For many years, he led the musical group Reflections, well known throughout the area.

He was a member of St. Francis X Cabrini Parish, serving as Eucharistic Minister and Financial Council member.

Surviving are his wife of 41 years, Celeste Barbacci Geskey; sons, Christopher, of Brick, N.J.; and Frank; three grandsons; sisters, Anne Marie Steinhauer, Dallas; and Patricia Spudis, Tunkhannock; nieces and nephews.

Memorial donations to the Hospice of the Sacred Heart, 600 Baltimore Drive, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702.

**HIGGINS** - James Robert Sr., 56, lost his battle with cancer on Tuesday, October 2, 2012, at home.

He was born in Wilkes-Barre on June 21, 1956 and was a graduate of Lake-Lehman High School in 1975. He was a longtime member of the Teamsters Union, beginning 30 years ago with GCIU local 163.

Surviving are his wife, Penny; children, Jim Jr., Annie and Brandon; three grandchildren; adopted daughter, Becki Raczkowski; siblings, Violet Milbrodt, Donna Phillips and Edward Higgins; nieces and nephews.

Memorial donations to the American Cancer Society, 712 S. Keyser Ave., Taylor, PA 18517.

**KULICK** - James, 86, Dallas, died Sunday, October 7, 2012, at his residence.

He was born in Edwardsville and was a World War II veteran.

Surviving are his wife, Helen Hanusin Kulick, to whom he was married for 60 years; a son, David, Gaithersburg, Maryland; daughters, Sheila Nicholson, Harveys Lake; Renee Carle, Cape Coral, Fla.; two grandchildren; a brother, Donald; nieces and nephews.

Memorial donations to Hospice of the Sacred Heart, 600 Baltimore Drive, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702.

**MORAN** - Mary M. Padden, 86, of Orchard West, Newberry Estate in Dallas and Spanish Lakes in Fort Pierce, Florida, died Monday, Oct. 8, 2012, at her home in Dallas.

She was born May 30, 1926, in Plains, and was a graduate of Saint Mary's High School in

Wilkes-Barre.

Before retiring, she was employed in the mortgage department of the former First Eastern Bank for many years.

She was a member of the Parish of Saint Therese in Shavertown.

Surviving are her daughters, Mary Cybuck, of Budd Lake, New Jersey; and Sally Rogers, of Plains; seven grandchildren; sister, Margaret Goodsir, of Lake Ariel; nieces and nephews.

Memorial donations to Commonwealth Hospice, 900 Rutter Ave., Suite 8, Forty Fort, PA 18704.

**SCHELLENBERG** - Judith Nicholson, 86, of Orchard East at Newberry Estate in Dallas, died Sunday, September 30, 2012, at Hospice Community Care.

She was born June 5, 1926 in Wilkes-Barre, attended Kingston schools and graduated from Wyoming Seminary. She earned a bachelor of arts degree from Wilson College in Chambersburg. Following graduation, she lived in New York City, married and returned to Dallas.

She was a member of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Dallas, a sustaining member of the Junior League of Wilkes-Barre and an associate member of the Westmoreland Club.

Surviving are her daughters, Darcy Wolf Rogers, of Scranton; Hildy Archer Ide, of Huntsville.

Memorial donations to Trinity Presbyterian Church, 105 Irem Road, Dallas, PA 18612.

**SHALES** - Evelyn L., 96, of Kingston Township, died Thursday, October 4, 2012, in the Meadows Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Dallas.

She was born in Forty Fort, was a graduate of Kingston Township High School Class of 1934 and the Smith School of Nursing, formerly of Kingston. For many years, she was employed at Natona Mills, later Native Textiles, of Dallas and did private-duty nursing as an LPN.

She was a member of the former Carverton United Methodist Church, Back Mountain Branch of the former Nesbitt Hospital Auxiliary and the Dallas Senior Citizens Center.

Surviving are her children, David, Wyoming; Ruth Ann Cook, Dallas; and Jean Alaniz, Kingston Township; three grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; several step-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren; sister, Elizabeth Switzer, Dallas.

Memorial donations to the Meadows Residents Activities Fund, 4 East Center Hill Road, Dallas, PA 18612 or the Orange

United Methodist Church, 441 Orange Road, Dallas, PA 18612.

**TAYLOR** - Kristie Lynn, 26, of Hunlock Creek, died on Sunday, October 6, 2012, at home.

She was born on April 26, 1986, at the Nesbitt Hospital in Kingston.

She graduated from Lake-Lehman High School in 2004 where she lettered twice in cheerleading and was part of the team who took the fifth place in the National Competition in Walt Disney World.

She was employed by Hart Hanks and NEPA Area Agency on Aging, where she worked as a licensed cosmetologist.

Surviving are her son, Taylor Ryan Sult; her father, Kenneth Taylor, with whom she resided; stepmother, Sandra Johns, of Hunlock Creek; mother, Kelly DiVeronica Stair; stepfather, Henry Scharff; brother, Anthony DiVeronica, of Harveys Lake; grandfather, Merle E. Taylor, of Hunlock Creek; stepbrothers, Richard and Andrew Johns, of Hunlock Creek; and Jesse, Eric, Brian and Tyler Scharff, of Harveys Lake; fiancé, Mark Sult, of Shickshinny; aunts, uncles and cousins.

Memorial donations to the Susan B. Komen Foundation at <http://ww5.komen.org/donate/donate.html>.

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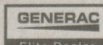
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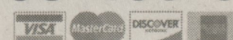
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