



Audience members sing and clap along during 'Christmas with a Twist' at Shavertown United Methodist Church.

One holiday show that had a 'twist'

By MEGAN SCHNEIDER
For The Dallas Post

Three years ago, Shavertown United Methodist Church hosted a holiday charity concert called Christmas with a Twist. The event was hosted by Making a Difference Ministries, a group of Christian musicians from churches all over Northeast PA, that perform each year to help provide for local charities.

At that time, the musical ministry group had only six members and performed only once. On Sunday Dec. 2, the church hosted the same group, now 18 members strong and performing five concerts at five locations for five different charities.

The event drew a crowd of over 50 people and the performers and the audience brought donations of toiletries for Ruth's Place, an emergency shelter for homeless women in Luzerne County.

The group has six vocalists,

including John Bunney and Barbara Roberts, both from the Back Mountain. Kingston Township Police Officer Frank Ziegler plays drums and Brian Carlson from River of Life Church plays percussion instruments. The group performed 20 holiday songs, both classic Christmas and Christian style.

"It's nice because everyone gives their time for free and they don't expect anything in return," said Stephen Perillo, president of Making a Difference Ministries.

Perillo's wife Gail makes all arrangements and schedules charities for each event. Perillo said the group tries to schedule a different charity for every event so it can help as many groups as possible.

This year's ministry had 18 members representing seven churches from all over the Back Mountain and Wilkes-Barre areas, including members of Shavertown United Methodist, Huntsville Christian Church and River of Life Church in Lehman.



Pianist Julie Pais accompanies vocalists from 'Christmas with a Twist' at the Shavertown United Methodist Church.

Christina Shimp, from Huntsville Christian, served as co-director for this year's performance. It was her second year performing with the group. She plays the flute for the band and performed a beautiful rendition of "Christmas Time is Here," best known as the theme from "A Charlie Brown Christmas."

"We do a musical ministry," said Bunney. "There are a lot of songs that have a lot of good messages." Bunney and Roberts both attend Shavertown United Methodist and both sing in the Step by Step band as well as with Making a Difference Ministries. "There's a lot of fellowship,"

Bunney said. "We make new friends and acquaintances."

"Plus we live to sing," Roberts added.

Perillo said when he started the group three years ago, people were very skeptical. He said the idea of members of different churches working together was strange to many people and some even thought they were trying to influence patrons to transfer churches. But in the last few years, he has seen this musical ministry grow to reach out and help the community together.

"We are glad to be one unified group to help everybody out," said Perillo.

Local dancers take the stage in 'Nutcracker'

In a cast featuring many Back Mountain residents, Ballet Northeast will present its 29th annual full-length production of "The Nutcracker" ballet at 2 p.m. today, Dec. 16 at the Dorothy Dickson Darte CPA at Wilkes University.

Performing the principal role of the Sugarplum Fairy will be BNE soloist Julie Degan, of Harveys Lake, with guest professional artist Evgeny Truposkiadi as her Cavalier.

Alternating in the role of the Dew Drop Fairy will be Mary Kathryn Siejak and Kelly Ferrell. The lead children's roles will be shared by Anna Weiss and Danielle Gendler as Klara and Aoife Burke and Madison Dewees, of Dallas, as Fritz.

Rejoining the cast for the role of Drosselmaier will be guest artist and BNE alumnus TJ Firreno. Greg Herron will portray the Enchanted Nutcracker and Laura Wooditch, of Dallas, will be the winsome baby mouse.

Sharing the role of the Ice Princess will be Ms. Ferrell and Ms. Siejak, while Mary Sharon Ciaccia, of Dallas, and Mikaela Rowe will portray that of the Snow Queen. Appearing in other solo

or lead supporting roles in this holiday family classic will be Greg Herron, of Dallas; Megan Ferrell, Danielle Gendler, Jamie Goldstein, of Dallas; Taylor Kazimi, Mary Mash, Anna Lucas, Sarah Polansky, Elisa Rivera, Grace Schaub, Tiffany Usavage and Rachael Wooditch, of Dallas.

Also appearing in supporting roles will be BNE corps members Angel Alday, Christina Kalie, Caitlyn and Lauren McHenry, Hannah Bonk, Sarah Stec, of Dallas; and Bella Stash.

Other Back Mountain residents cast in children's roles are Tess Ciarimboli, Natasha Corba, Brianna Dempsey, Sophia Farina, Catlin and Cora Finn, Elizabeth and Evelyn Henkels, Kathryn Morgan, Caroline Pitarra, Ella Plummer, Abigail Singer, Sophia Snell, Sophia Stash, Chase and Peyton Taylor, and Abby, Emily and Sara Williams.

Admission is \$20 for adults and \$15 for seniors, children and students. For additional information, call 821-8525 or 639-1303. Ticket reservations can also be made by calling 821-8525. Tickets will also be available the Darte CPA box office immediately before each performance.



Back Mountain resident Madison Dewees portrays Fritz (Klara's brother) in Ballet Northeast's production of the 'Nutcracker.'

DALLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Elementary school options outlined

By GERI GIBBONS
Dallas Post Correspondent

He (superintendent Frank Galicki) said the district has a history of being proactive in maintaining quality education for its students.

The Dallas School District's board of directors on Monday discussed alternative approaches to updating Dallas Elementary School, which is in need of maintenance and repair.

A water main break at the school earlier in the year prompted a study to determine the state of the building and possible options for rehabilitating it.

Architect Scott Vencil, of Crabtree, Rohrbaugh and Associates, presented a proposal for incorporating students from the present Dallas Elementary School into the Wycallis Elementary School building. The schools share space on the same campus.

He estimated the cost of the project to be in the range of \$6.5 million to \$7.5 million.

The proposal would mean the addition of 16 to 20 classrooms onto the Wycallis building, with adjustments to such common areas as the kitchen, library and cafeteria. It would also mean fifth-grade students would attend the district's middle school.

Middle School Principal Thomas Duffy said it would be possible to incorporate the extra students into the middle school building, but it would be a "somewhat tight fit."

Resident Thomas Dombroski questioned the necessity of the project at this time, but Superintendent Frank Galicki indicated nothing is definite.

"I want to assure you that this project is at its very beginnings, and we have much to think about," said Galicki. He said the district has a history of being proactive in maintaining quality education for its students.

The board also said that there would be many more meetings on the issue and that it would welcome community input.

In another matter, Catherine Wega, outgoing president of the board, was honored for her service to the district. She continues in her position on the board as a director.

Wega, who also completed a term as president of the West Side Career and Technology Center's Joint Operating Committee, lauded the efforts of local school officials in the face of continuing fiscal challenges.

The next meeting of the Dallas School Board will be on Jan. 14 at 7 p.m.

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

The following Back Mountain real estate transactions have been recorded in the Luzerne County Office of Recorder of Deeds for the week of Nov. 26, 2012:

Kim Brown and Joseph J. Mack Jr. to Edward and Lucia Johns Baker, 1,534 acres, Jackson Township; \$123,333

Charles W. Gordon to Jeffrey B. Smith, Lot 1, Gordon/Morgan Subdivision, Kingston Township; \$165,900

Raul Antony Jr. and Catherine Marie Lopez to Michael J. Gyory and Jennifer A. Mioduski, 21 Tamanini Drive, Kingston Township; \$226,000

Ryan D. and Susan Holthaus to David W. and Angela Kaczmarke, 2 parcels, Dallas Township; \$139,000

Beverly J. Gabb, Sharon L. and Thomas S. Gramley to Eric and Carol Rambus, Lehman Township; \$27,900

George L. Ruckno Inc. to Janusz Pustelnik, 1 Lake St., Dallas Township; \$35,000

Thomas Dombroski to Dolores A. Goble, Lots 15, 16 and 18, Goss Manor, Dallas Township; \$1,000

Corene Dow and Frank H. Bower to Bradley and Tariann Stickler, Lot 7, Ondish Hills, Dallas Township; \$255,000

Jeffrey and Jan Picker to Jeanette M. Roppa Bottesch, Unit 619, Building D, Dallas Township; \$250,000

Carol B. Madigan to Richard and Susan Mecteau, Jackson Township; \$343,000

Thomas Kevin and Leona D. Hastings, Kiernan Hastings McKeon to Ellen A. Ferrara, Lots 202 and 203, Shawnee Lots, Harveys Lake Borough; \$55,000

Ann H. Rott and Ann H. Koval to Corey Askew and Kathleen L. Lapallo, 5.65 acres, Lehman Township; \$92,000

Investors Diversified, LLC to Jeffrey Brown, Lake Township; \$500.

The following Back Mountain real estate transactions have been recorded in the Luzerne County Office of Recorder of Deeds for the week of Dec. 3, 2012:

Eastern Communities Limited Partnership to Kenneth S. and Jamie L. Greco, Lot 60, Saddle Ridge Estates, Dallas Township; \$305,000

Jonathan and Maricia Hoegg to Desiree C. Frega and Douglas Harris, Dallas Borough; \$125,000

Julie A. McLaughlin to Jonathan James and Maria F. Hoegg, Lot 10, Fox Hollow; \$175,000

Dallas Area Municipal Authority to KBJ Real Estate Investment, L.P., Kingston Township; \$15,000

Joseph Yonchik (trustee) to Timothy and Lindsay M. Drag-on, Lots 5 & 5, Mount Air Terrace, Kingston Township; \$68,900

Claudia Linda Puzo (executrix) to Kyle and Amber Kidd, Lots 26 and 27, Harveys Lake Borough; \$35,000

Suzanne Miller and George Haas to William Patrick III and Krissie Lynn McDermott, Lot 3, Haas Minor Subdivision, Franklin Township; \$249,000

Geraldine M. Kerkowski to Jacob Matthew and Brittany Marie Burgess, 15 Vine St., Lot 15, Oak Hill Plot, Lehman Township; \$140,840

Patti Ann Morgan and Doris S. Brobst to Christopher F. Watkins, Lots 33 & 345, Section C, Dallas Terrace, Dallas Borough; \$143,100

Jaime A. and Alfred J. Weinschenk III to Joanne A. Skevoft, Lots 119 & 119A, Section C., Dallas Borough; \$115,000

Daniel E. and Melanie K. Cochran to Kristopher P. Nardi and Sandra M. Bender, Dallas Borough; \$105,000

Joseph J. and Mary Louise M. Phillips to Michael R. Jackubowski, 95 Jackson St., Dallas Borough; \$174,500

Many new books make their way to shelves at Back Mountain Memorial Library in December

The following new books have been added to the shelves of the Back Mountain Memorial Library, 96 Huntsville Road, Dallas, for the month of December 2012:

EXPRESS

"Nano" by Robin Cook, "Fox Tracks" by Rita Mae Brown, "A Christmas Garland" by Anne Perry, "Private London" by James Patterson, "Shiver" by Karen Robards, "The Next Best Thing" by Jennifer Weiner,

"Where We Belong" by Emily Giffin, "In Sunlight and in Shadow" by Mark Helprin
FICTION
"Nano" by Robin Cook, "Threat Vector" by Tom Clancy, "Private London" by James Pat-

erson, "Shiver" by Karen Robards, "The Little Amish Matchmaker" by Linda Byler, "The Bridge" by Karen Kingsbury, "The Lawgiver" by Herman Wouk, "An Unattended Death" by Victoria Jenkins, "Asbury

Park" by Rob Scott, "Spring Fever" by Mary Kay Andrews
NONFICTION
"Mafia Prince" by Philip Leonetti, "Why I Left Goldman Sachs" by Greg Smith, "Proof of Heaven" by Eben Alexander,

"The New York Times Book of Wine", "Kovel's Antiques & Collectibles Price Guide 2013", "iPhones 4S Dummies" by Edward C. Baig and Bob LeVitus

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