

Historical Society

Society set to ride canal

Members of the Boyertown Area Historical Society toured the restored Muhlenburg House in Trappe on Sunday, Sept. 9.

On Saturday, October 6, the group will enjoy a ride on a mule drawn canal boat operating on restored section 8 of the Lehigh Canal.

They will experience the history and romance of the towpath canal era from the deck of the Josiah White II.

The boat is outfitted with above and below deck seating, restrooms, handicap accessibility and a canopy for protection from

the sun and rain. The 2 1/2 hour ride will cover a 5-mile round trip on an authentically restored section of the Lehigh Canal.

Participants will experience the raising and lowering of the boat in the only working, hand-operated lock in Pennsylvania or New Jersey.

The cost of the trip is \$11 for adults and \$6 for children. There are still some vacancies.

Anyone who is interested in taking the ride should contact the Boyertown Area Historical Society at 610-367-5255.

Boyertown school principal leaves

By Diane Van Dyke
Berks-Mont Writer

For Principal Ann Helion, leaving Boyertown Elementary School on Sept. 21 after three years was very much like saying good bye to a second family.

"I have been very happy here," said Helion. "I had planned on staying here until retirement."

But Helion's "other" family -- her children and husband -- asked her to reconsider her initial decision to decline a principal position with East Bradford Elementary School in West Chester.

"The school (East Bradford) is only ten minutes from my home," said Helion. Her commute to Boyertown Elementary was an hour one way.

September marked the start of what would have been Helion's fourth year at Boyertown Elementary. During that time, one of the things she enjoyed most was the people, both grown-ups and children.

"They have an honesty and sincerity that is refreshing," she said. "I have learned as much as I pos-

sibly could from the people here."

Working with parents, staff and teachers, Helion feels that she, as part of the family team, has made Boyertown Elementary a safe place that is a warm and inviting learning environment for children.

A number of safety measures: a single entrance into the school, a heightened awareness of where children are, and training of playground monitors - have been implemented, said Helion.

"We also have a dismissal policy that works wonderfully," she said. Boyertown Elementary utilizes a "curbside pickup" for parents picking up children after school that reduces the possibility of strangers entering the building.

In addition to her principal duties, Helion has also managed to squeeze in time for community activities such as reading at the Boyertown Community Library and assisting with United Way fundraising.

"It has been a pleasure to be here," said Helion. "I will miss everyone a lot and am leaving good friends and colleagues."

My view of 9-11: Dispelling rumors and children's fears

By Michelle Wright
Special to Berks-Mont

Imagine being in a study hall with over 140 kids and being the only adult present, wondering why teachers are scurrying about behind closed doors in the faculty room behind you.

I finally got up the nerve to ask, "What's going on?"

"Oh, my God, go look", I was told.

I hurried in just in time to see a hole in the side of one of the World Trade Center Twin Towers, just in time to see the second plane hit the other.

I froze, fought back tears, and heard many ideas of who was responsible.

All I knew was this was an act of terrorism, and for that I was thankful that the Towers still stood there, though severely damaged. Why, you might ask was I thankful, because this was the second terrorist act against these towers and they still stood.

To me the standing of these towers was a symbol of anti-ter-

rorism. To me they were "flipping-the-bird" to the terrorists saying, "ha, you still didn't get me".

Then came news that the Pentagon was bombed, "Oh my God, what about children on class trips", was my first thought.

You see, only two years ago my son and I visited both the Trade Center and the Pentagon on school trips.

My thought was to the children who possibly could be on tours and I felt sick.

Then I watched in horror and disbelief, my symbols dissolved in a volcanic eruption of ash and paper. I dissolved in bitter, salty tears.

Less than two years ago I stood atop that building looking down on Manhattan and the Empire State Building. Imagine my horror when the dust cleared and the tallest building in the shot was the Empire State Building, it was worse than any dream I could imagine.

Then the principal made a vague announcement, which

seemed to make things harder for the children to handle.

They were given only enough information to stir their eager imaginations. I spent the day quietly dispelling rumors and fears that, "Yes, they were safe in Gilbertsville" and "No, I don't think they'd 'bomb' us here".

I comforted friends who didn't know if friends in the Pentagon were safe, friends who wanted to get their children home safe, and acquaintances that just needed an ear, or shoulder, to cry on.

I heard people who were normally non-aggressive vowing to get even, that the US should kill all groups who have made terrorist threats towards the US.

I experienced the, "Where were you when Kennedy was shot phenomenon" and frankly I lived 36 years without it and I wish I could've never experienced it.

I witnessed my junior high being barricaded and security heightened, from what terror I don't fully comprehend. We were told NOT to show emotion around the children, for those of

you who know me, keeping my emotions in check is not an easy task, somehow I managed until the end of the day.

Welling up only while alone and saying a prayer for those directly involved, those indirectly involved, my family, those I loved, and friends of those I loved.

I managed to store my tears until I was safely locked in my car then the saline river ran unchecked, unprovoked.

I experienced the radio with no music, even stations that touted, "All music, all the time", had DJ's that sounded like weary anchor-men spouting information on this horror.

For the rest of my life, and my children's lives, I pray that we never see something as horrific and terrifying as we did today, 9-11.

Michelle Wright is a former writer for The News of Southern Berks. She currently works for the Boyertown Area School District as an aide and is a resident of the Boyertown area.

Inside Berks

Ever been humiliated?

Really, really publicly made to look impotent and non-consequential? I mean, dragged through the mud and made to grovel at bended knee for a tasteless morsel that, in the end, you didn't get anyway?

Then, you know how the Berks County Republican Party feels right about now.

How did they take it right up the wazoo?

By probably losing their shot at a federal judge after massive lobbying for it, by getting sliced in two in congressional reapportionment, and, the unkindest cut of all, the "nightmare of nine", the worst of all possible State House reapportionment scenarios: Not only no new State House district, but invasion by several out of county GOP State House members to represent the Berks voters that should have been voting for one of their own.

A Republican Governor, State Senate and State House leadership did this to them.

This, after the county went for George Bush



David Kamonier

by over 12,000 votes, sports a massive GOP majority of county row officers, a GOP majority on the county commission and a de facto GOP majority in county voters.

Thank you sir, may I have another? Hell, Berks voters are so slavishly

Republican they even went for Bob Dole in 1996, he, his candidacy and his chances to win all not exactly high voltage excitement.

And what do they get for their dog-like devotion?

A one way ticket to Palookaville.

Party types have privately opined that certain GOP House leadership types that want to make their urban seats safer have caved to the Dems on many reapportionment issues. But, something tells me John Perzel didn't say to Vince Fumo, "Hey Vince, can I get more Republicans in my district if I dismember Berks County?"

To turn around the Bard, that fault lies not within ourselves, but within our stars. Our political stars.

Now, as the news of Ridge's new Washington gig throws Harrisburg in an uproar and gives new hope to those that think A.G. Mike Fisher's gubernatorial candidacy is a looming disaster, this might seem like small

see BERKS on 7

"It was my best birthing experience by far. And it wasn't far at all!"



Cindy Cortazzo with Julia Bethlehem Township

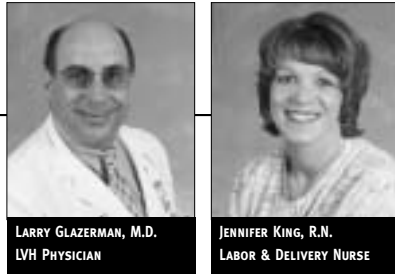
CINDY CORTAZZO OF BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP HAD HER BABY AT THE CENTER FOR MOTHER AND BABY CARE.

Cindy Cortazzo lives in Bethlehem Township. But she chose Lehigh Valley Hospital because the obstetrician she prefers, Larry Glazerman, M.D., delivers there. "To me, it's worth it. It's an easy drive, and it's right off I-78."

Being able to keep newborn Julia in the room at all times was a part of the birthing experience that Ms. Cortazzo really appreciated. She explained, "I wanted a chance to bond with Julia and get to know her before I went home to the other children."

In addition to a private room and private recovery room, Ms. Cortazzo really appreciated the experienced staff. "If I needed them, they were always there, always friendly and helpful." And Dad Christopher even had a comfortable sleep chair.

In fact, Ms. Cortazzo confides, "This experience was so good, we might even consider having another child!"



LARRY GLAZERMAN, M.D. L.V.H. PHYSICIAN

JENNIFER KING, R.N. LABOR & DELIVERY NURSE

For a free video on OBGYN services at Lehigh Valley Hospital and Health Network, call 610-402-CARE

LEHIGH VALLEY HOSPITAL AND HEALTH NETWORK

Center for Mother & Baby Care

When it matters most, you have the comfort of knowing that:

- More than 3,300 babies are born at the Center for Mother and Baby Care every year—more than any other hospital in the region.
- Our board-certified obstetricians have offices in Allentown, Quakertown, Hamburg, Bethlehem and Trexlertown, so you can have your prenatal care near your home or office.
- Our obstetrical nurses average more than 20 years of experience.
- Lehigh Valley Hospital has the largest Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in the region.
- Lehigh Valley Hospital is the primary teaching hospital for Penn State's College of Medicine.
- High-risk childbirth specialists provide medical and emotional support to mothers who need special care.
- The Center for Mother and Baby Care offers security and comfort, with the area's newest and largest obstetrical unit.
- An anesthesiologist is available around the clock for your comfort during labor and delivery.

Lehigh Valley Hospital Cedar Crest & I-78 Allentown

Lehigh Valley Hospital Muhlenberg Bethlehem

Lehigh Valley Hospital 17th & Chew Allentown

NEED A DOCTOR? 610-402-CARE • WWW.LVHHN.ORG

Reach For Healing through Therapeutic Dance

with Joanne Groebel, dance/movement therapist; Stacey Boss and Louise Ruth, physical therapists

This special program on gentle movement for cancer patients is designed to increase your flexibility and energy. A qualified facilitator will help you toward healing and strengthening your body at your pace.

Seven-week sessions throughout the year.

Call for dates, times and location.

The Reading Hospital
Regional Cancer Center
Programs

Plan now to attend these special cancer-related programs:

Improving The Chemotherapy Experience

with Ann Rollman, RN, MSN, OCN, oncology clinical nurse specialist

This educational symposium is for chemotherapy and cancer patients, caregivers, and healthcare professionals. Topics include:

- how to manage the physical and often overlooked psychological side effects of cancer treatment, especially chemotherapy
- how to best prepare for treatment
- coping with emotional issues
- complementary therapies
- strategies to make the chemotherapy experience as successful as possible

Free

Tuesday, November 13, 7 - 9 p.m.

or

Monday, November 19, 2 - 4 p.m.

Education Center at The Reading Hospital

Annual Conference
sponsored by Breast Cancer Support Services of Berks County

Living Healthy After Breast Cancer

with Lynn B. Carlson, MD, obstetrician/gynecologist; Stacey Boss physical therapist, and Jane Williams, PhD, MDiv, licensed psychologist

Designed for breast cancer survivors and those who care about them, this program will address both the emotional and physical issues frequently experienced by patients once active treatment has ended. The topic of lymphedema prevention and treatment will also be covered.

Free

Thursday, October 11
Registration begins at 6 p.m. Program begins 6:30 p.m.

Thun/Janssen Auditorium at The Reading Hospital

Relieving Cancer Pain

with Ann Rollman, RN, MSN, OCN, oncology clinical nurse specialist

This workshop, cosponsored by the American Cancer Society and The Reading Hospital Regional Cancer Center, is designed to address a patient's concerns about cancer pain in a way that will enhance both health and quality of life.

Free

Monday, October 8, 2 - 4 p.m.

or

Tuesday, October 23, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Education Center at The Reading Hospital

Colorectal Cancer Screening

For men and women over the age of 50, a free colorectal cancer screening kit can be picked up at The Regional Cancer Center during office hours. The kit includes complete instructions; you will be notified at home of the results.

Free

Weekdays (except holidays), 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The Reading Hospital Regional Cancer Center, Doctors Office Building, Suite 125

For all programs advance registration required; call The Reading Hospital Regional Cancer Center at 610-988-9999 or e-mail: goforthm@readinghospital.org

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES?
CALL 610-988-WORK

The Reading Hospital Regional Cancer Center
www.readinghospital.org