



Woman of the Year

Pearl S. Buck International bestowed its 2013 Woman of the Year Award for Lifetime Achievement to Esther Hewlett. Inspired by Pearl S. Buck's humanitarian work 45 years ago, Hewlett accepted Pearl Buck's invitation to travel to Taipei to help lay the groundwork for opening a Taiwan office to serve Amerasian children, according to the organization's website. Her experience was transformative and led to her lifelong commitment to work for the rights of women around the world, the well-being of children, the power of young people to change the world, and to build a global community. She received the award from David Yoder, chairman of the board, on Nov. 13 at a special luncheon and ceremony. Photograph by Debby High.

New Hope community group welcomes new sponsor

The Rev. Michael Ruk of St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 10 Chapel Road, New Hope, is the newest sponsor of the community organization H.O.P.E. — "Helping Other People Every Day."

The volunteers of H.O.P.E., who began their service in 2006, seek to share their time, talent and resources by assisting and caring for people in the New Hope area.

They are available to: make telephone calls and house visits to those unable to leave their homes; provide local transportation to medical appointments, the bank, post office, supermarket, etc.; prepare and deliver meals when an emergency arises; and help with small chores around the yard or house.

The original sponsors of the H.O.P.E. partnership, Geri Delevich (New Hope Borough), Father Fred Kindon (St. Martin's Church) and Rabbi Diana Miller (Kehillat HaNahar), welcomed their newest supporter at a meeting held in the New Hope Borough offices.

During their discussion, the Rev. Ruk noted that his parish has a long history of national and international outreach, and that his congregants were pleased to become part of a caring organization such as H.O.P.E.

"I see great possibilities with H.O.P.E. in not only serving the needs of New Hope citizens, but in creating a deeper sense of community in this wonderful town," he said.

Rabbi Diana Miller, a relative newcomer to the New Hope area as rabbi to Kehillat HaNahar, the Little Shul on the River, said, "A community has an obligation to take care of its own. When individuals are not already connected to religious or other local groups, organizations such as H.O.P.E. can make sure that people in need of help do not fall between the cracks."

Individuals interested in becoming volunteers to the H.O.P.E. organization can find a brochure and other related information at any of the partnership offices or through the borough website, newhopeborough.org. Those who know of a community member in need of assistance can visit the same website or call 215-862-3347.

Bucks County farms preserved

Pennsylvania's Agricultural Land Preservation Board today safeguarded 4,181 additional acres on 41 farms in 21 counties through the state's farmland preservation program.

Bucks County Farms added to

the list are:

- The David Library Farm, a 52.59-acre crop farm.
- The Robert C. Pope farm, a 76.21-acre crop farm.
- The Arthur and Timothy Shull farm #2, a 97.26-acre crop farm.

Since the program began in 1988, state, county and local governments have invested more than \$1.2 billion to preserve 484,270 acres on 4,532 farms in 57 counties for future agricultural production.

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Heart Institute physicians complete TAVR procedures

Doylestown Hospital physicians are among the first in the region to perform an innovative procedure to replace diseased heart valves in the sickest of patients without open-heart surgery.

The team from the Heart Institute completed the first two Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) procedures on Oct. 31, and an additional two procedures on Nov. 21.

Interventional cardiologist Dr. Steven Guidera and cardiothoracic surgeon Dr. Joseph Authier led the team, with Dr. James McClurken, assisting, that replaced the valves of an 83-year-old male and an 86-year-old female during the first two

minimally-invasive procedures. Interventional cardiologist Dr. David Boland and Authier led the team for the Nov. 21 procedures, with McClurken assisting. This time, physicians used the transapical approach (gaining access via the apex of the left ventricle).

"This wouldn't have been possible without a tremendous amount of teamwork," Boland said. "Each patient benefits from the collaboration of several physicians and experts, working together to ensure the best possible outcome. We are pleased to be able to offer this procedure to our patients." All of the patients had severe aortic stenosis along with other health problems. As people age,

calcium deposits may narrow the valve and it may not open properly, obstructing blood flow from the heart to the aorta and the rest of the body. This condition, called aortic stenosis, generally affects older adults and may lead to heart failure.

Medications are not an effective treatment for aortic stenosis. Without aortic valve replacement, as many as 50 percent of patients with severe symptoms may not survive more

than an average of two years after symptoms begin. In the past, the only option was to have open-heart surgery to replace the malfunctioning valve. Because of advanced age and other co-morbidities, not everyone can tolerate open-heart surgery.

During the TAVR procedure, the small collapsible heart valve is threaded through either the femoral artery in the groin or the apex of the heart (transapical

approach) in the chest using a catheter. The valve and its metal scaffolding are precisely put into place and the new valve functions like a healthy valve.

The Heart Institute is one of only a few cardiac programs in the region to be approved to offer this advanced procedure. The procedures are performed in the hospital's hybrid room, which combines capabilities of a catheterization lab and operating room.



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Young captain

Ten-year-old Samantha Kiwak, seated, sixth from left, a heart disease survivor from Chalfont, served as the young team captain for Team Samantha, comprised of friends and family who raised money for heart disease and stroke research at the American Heart Association's 15th annual Heart Walk. Team Samantha earned the label of "Top Community Team," raising more than \$21,000 (and counting) and contributing to the Heart Walk's total (to date) of more than \$1.4 million. Photograph by Daniel Burke Photography.

Young captain Samantha Kiwak, seated, sixth from left, a heart disease survivor from Chalfont, served as the young team captain for Team Samantha, comprised of friends and family who raised money for heart disease and stroke research at the American Heart Association's 15th annual Heart Walk. Team Samantha earned the label of "Top Community Team," raising more than \$21,000 (and counting) and contributing to the Heart Walk's total (to date) of more than \$1.4 million. Photograph by Daniel Burke Photography.

Welcome the winter solstice at Solebury Club

Celebrate the winter solstice with the yoga community at the Solebury Club on Saturday, Dec. 21.

From 3 to 4 p.m., Karin Eisen will lead a hip opening Vinyasa yoga class while Maureen Shortt, yoga director of the Solebury Club,

learns a lower spinal opening Svaroopa class. After classes there will be a short talk on "Light" from the ancient yogic teachings, followed by meditation and sharing.

This community event is free and family and friends are invited. Call The Solebury Club at 215

794-3494 to register or visit soleburyclub.com. The club is at 4612 Hughesian Drive, Buckingham.

Donations will be accepted for the Bucks County Opportunity Council, to be distributed to the food banks throughout the county.

New book explains diabetes to children

Bearly Tolerable Publications has released "Jack's Diabetes," a picture book targeting elementary school children with the goal of explaining that diabetes is a treatable disease.

Children have many mysteries that they courageously face on a daily basis. Author William G. Bentrim's goal in writing is to

demystify or explain to children the basis for some of the confusing situations in their lives.

Diabetes is not just a word to 12-year-old Jack. It has changed the way he lives his life. Jack has learned not to just cope with a disease, but that he can live his life the way he wants while successfully treating his diabetes.

This book's goal is to help children realize that although the onset of diabetes can be frightening, it does not mean the cessation of normal life.

The book is available in both Kindle and paperback format at Amazon.com and can be ordered at local book stores. Details on the book can be found at bentrim.info.

Local fathers attend parenting workshop

Central Bucks Family YMCA collaborated with The Council of Southeast Pennsylvania to present a six-week parenting workshop for community fathers.

The workshop, aimed to nurture fathers who want to develop positive attitudes and parenting skills, was designed for fathers of chil-

dren up to 12 years. The Council approached the Y in late summer about the collaboration as a good fit for both organizations.

The program is facilitated by a male instructor from The Council of Southeast Pennsylvania and focuses on a different topic each week. The group is given opportu-

nity to reflect and discuss topics together.

"There is such a need for a program like this in our community," said Jay DePue, director of youth development at the Y. "We're thrilled to collaborate with The Council of Southeast Pennsylvania in such a meaningful way."

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