

Lehigh Valley author teaches children about pet adoption

After working 20 years as a corrections officer at a prison, Allentown resident Barbara Morgan retired and decided to do something that she really wanted to do – work with animals.

She works for a local animal shelter transporting animals to and from their vet appointments and is on call to pick up strays in the middle of the night. This work inspired her first book, “Gummy and The Ferret.”



BARBARA MORGAN

She decided to write another book about what happens when the doors close at night at the local shelter and the employees have gone home, “One Night at the Shelter,” along with her other book, are intended to introduce young readers to the serious subject of pet adoption.

Both books received a 5-star review from Reader’s Favorite and are available in paperback and kindle editions on Amazon.com.

Rotary raffle to help two Bucks charities

The Rotary Club of Central Bucks holds a raffle drawing through Jan. 17, to benefit the Bucks County Housing Group and Healthlink Dental Clinic.

One thousand tickets are available for purchase for \$50 each. The grand prize is a Caribbean cruise or San Francisco/Napa Valley, Calif., or \$5,000 cash (vacation courtesy of Jet Set Travels, Southampton). Second prize is \$1,000 and third prize is \$500.

To enter the drawing visit centralbucksrotary.com. All entries will

receive a confirmation by return mail. Raffle winners will be drawn Sunday, Jan. 17, between 4 and 6 p.m. at Carmel Kitchen (Shops at Valley Square), 1613 Main St., Warrington. You need not be present to win.

Winners are responsible for all applicable sales and income tax. In the event that a minimum of 300 entries are not received by Dec. 31, the Rotary Club of Central Bucks reserves the right to withdraw the offering and refund all monies submitted.

On the Spiritual Side

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Caroline Oakes: Mind and Spirit

For some of us, the promise of the new year means reflexively making overly optimistic New Year’s resolutions, many of which, we know, are based on desires we feel mostly at the surface of our lives – to lose weight, exercise more and spend less – rather than on what may be happening under the surface.

“There is nothing wrong with making resolutions,” says Christine Valters Painter, Seattle University professor and author of “Crossing the Threshold: New Year, New Beginnings.”

“However, they often aim so high without first cultivating the change of heart necessary to prepare space

for these new possibilities to take root.”

As a way to be more intentional about bringing new possibilities into their lives, many would-be New Year’s resolution makers are now instead taking cues from Jewish, Yogic, Christian and other spiritual traditions. They are honoring the celebration of New Year’s as a “threshold time” – a time to reflect on the past year and ponder hopes for the year ahead.

The Jewish New Year’s Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur tradition of reconciliation encourages us to “prepare space” for the new year by reflecting on our relationships over the past year and offering for-

giveness to those to whom we wish to be reconciled.

The deep tradition of Ignatian discernment in Christian spirituality encourages us to step back and pay attention to the unfolding story of our lives, to really notice what brings us consolation as well as desolation, and to follow those leads to where the Divine may be nudging us in a similar way.

In a similar way, the Yogic tradition offers the practice of creating a “sankalpa” a statement speaking to

the overarching truth and purpose of our lives. (“Kalpa” means highest vow, and “san” refers to a connection with the highest truth).

The creation of a sankalpa can serve as a personal mantra or reminder of what we are ultimately yearning for, and can bring deeper clarity to our more “surface” desires.

“Consider taking some time to prepare – even if only for an hour or two – to really listen for the deeper longings pulsing within you,” says

Painter.

“What is it that emerges from that place of stillness and grounding in your own holiness and goodness, rather than from a list of your shortcomings? What new doors are waiting within you to be opened?”

Caroline Oakes serves on the staff of Trinity Buckingham Church in Buckingham, as their Associate Minister for Spiritual Growth and Mission. Follow her on Facebook and on Twitter at @carolineoakes. oakes.caroline@gmail.com

A new kind of New Year’s resolution

Temple Judea hosts kindergarten open house, offers new toddler class

Temple Judea of Bucks County holds an open house for parents contemplating sending their children to the temple’s licensed, full-day kindergarten program, at 7 p.m. Jan. 7, at the synagogue, 38 Rogers Road, Furlong.

The event will provide parents with the opportunity to meet the kindergarten teacher, learn about the school’s curriculum and have

their questions answered.

For information, or to make a reservation to attend, call Sheryl Milstein, the synagogue’s Early Learning Center director, at 215-348-5022.

Parents of children ages 18 months to 2 years, as of January, are invited to enroll them in a new toddler class forming at Temple Judea of Bucks County.

The new class, which is limited to eight children, will take place two mornings a week and feature such activities as music, arts and crafts, story time, play, socialization and hugs.

“It’s a great introduction to separating from parents in a warm, nurturing environment with a highly experienced teacher,” Milstein said.

For information, contact Milstein at 215-348-5022.

St. Philip’s starts new year off with prayer

St. Philip’s Episcopal Church will start the new year off with a contemplative Eucharist for the Feast of the Holy Name and the World Day of Prayer for Peace at 10:15 a.m. Jan. 1. It will be a time of quiet prayer

and communion as participants pray for the world. All are welcome.

St. Philip’s Church is at the corner of River and Chapel road in New Hope. For information, visit stphilipsnewhope.org.

Children celebrate Christmas with Scripture and song at St. Robert Bellarmine



Students at St. Joseph/St. Robert School told the story of the “Birth of Jesus” through Scripture readings and songs.



In the spirit of the Christmas season, all the students from St. Joseph/St. Robert School in Warrington performed “Silent, Holy Night.” Here, some of the students sing.



Students at St. Joseph/St. Robert School in Warrington and students in the St. Robert Bellarmine youth group helped celebrate Christmas with Scripture readings, songs and a performance of the “Live Nativity” during December.

Little “angels” sit in a pew at St. Robert Bellarmine.



Students from the St. Robert Bellarmine parish youth group, PREP, St. Joseph/St. Robert School, and St. Robert Children’s Choir performed the “Live Nativity” on Dec. 13.



Victorian Carolers entertain

Courtney’s Victorian Carolers performed at the Salem United Church Advent Concert in Doylestown Wednesday, Dec. 9. Sharon Miller, Rebecca Benjamin and Juanita Crain sang an assortment of Christmas favorites. The concert was followed by a complimentary soup luncheon. This was the second of the three noontime concerts presented each Advent season.

Worship Directory

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, January 3, 2016
9:30 a.m. Worship / Communion / Sunday School
Pastor: Michelle Schenk
10:30 a.m. Fellowship and Refreshments
 Nursery Service Available
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