



MARY SWALLOW

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA The COURTERLY

Spring 2003

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Mary's Pink Posse 1
- FJD Well Represented at Race for the Cure 2
- Child Support Amnesty Offered 2
- Runner Has Competitive Spirit 3
- Philadelphia Reads Kicks Off Another Season 3
- Stephanie Garrett's Falling for Ridge Avenue 4
- Court Youth Excel in Summer Employment Program 4
- Employee Milestones . 4, 5
- 4th Annual Juror Appreciation Day a Big Success 5
- Judge Gordon Visits Juvenile Institutions. 5
- Joseph Kamnik Awarded 5
- FJD Comes Through Again in Blood Drive 6
- Rae Wardino Honored as Outstanding Child Advocate. 6
- Hardworking, Skillful Probation Officers Get Recognition. 7
- Hilarious Descriptions of Car Accidents 8
- People Who Get the Job Done. 8
- She Knows How to Brighten Up a Room. 8

Mary's Pink Posse Triumphs at Race for the Cure

Close your eyes, clear your mind and think of the following phrase: "Mary's Pink Posse." What image do those words conjure up in your mind's eye? Could it be a gang of goons dressed in pink, led by a woman named Mary, who roam through the streets of town and provoke stares from curious onlookers? Well, if that's what you thought, you're absolutely right. Mary's Pink Posse does exist and it made its presence well-known on Mother's Day, May 11, 2003 at the Komen Philadelphia Race for the Cure.

Every year, on Mother's Day, the City of Philadelphia is awash in pink as the participants in the Komen Philadelphia Race for the Cure take to the streets to walk in support of the women they love who are survivors of breast cancer, and in honor of those we have lost to the disease.

This year, on May 11, 2003, the court reporters and the administrative staff of the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania Court Reporter and Interpreter Administration Division, the best gang of goons you would ever want to meet, and their friends and family members, took their place on the steps of the Art Museum to show their support for a very special member of their "team" of court reporters - **Mary Swallow**, a fellow court reporter and ten-year survivor of breast cancer.

To make a very long story short, Mary's Pink Posse was formed from an idea that evolved during a conversation between Mary Swallow and her co-worker, **Victor Pospischil**. One day in February, Mary was soliciting in Victor's office - for pledges, that is - and they began to discuss how much fun it would be if they could start a

team composed of office staff and court reporters. They shared their idea with the administrative staff - **Janet Fasy**, Deputy Court Administrator, **Dolores Policarpo**, **Roseanne DiPrimio**, **Deborah Sulpizio** and **Lisa Mapp** - who immediately pledged their support.

At that moment, Mary's Pink Posse was formed, and over the

members of the Posse. At 8:35 a.m., the Posse, led by Mary Swallow, paraded their way through the streets of Philadelphia. They then boarded their trolley at the end of the Walk and proceeded on to the restaurant Trust, where they jubilantly celebrated their accomplishment while enjoying a delicious brunch.



Mary Swallow (center; in pink) and her posse gather on Race day.

course of the next few months leading up to the Walk, many court reporters and staff joined the mayhem and signed up to walk. Those who could not attend the Walk whipped out their checkbooks and signed a pledge form. But they didn't stop there. Many reporters, as well as office staff, took their pledge forms home and asked their friends and family for donations.

On the day of the Walk, the Posse met on the sidewalk outside 100 South Broad Street and boarded a Philadelphia Trolley Works trolley, destination the Philadelphia Art Museum. On the steps of the Art Museum, they joined other

The Court Reporters and Administrative Staff of the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania are proud to share with everyone that as of the date of this article, donations totaling \$2,419 were raised and presented to the Susan B. Komen Foundation under the team name of Mary's Pink Posse. We expect the complete total to reach over \$3,000 when donations from Mary's family and friends are added to the pot.

Mary Swallow and Victor Pospischil, Team Co-Captains, would like to extend their heartfelt appreciation to their fellow employees, family and friends, as well as

FJD Well Represented at Race for the Cure

“Together, we will survive.” That’s the theme of the 2003 Susan G. Komen Philadelphia Race for the Cure. The event website, (<http://www.phillyracefortheure.com/>), says that participants are dedicated “to finding a cure, bringing hope to millions, achieving our mission of eradicating breast cancer as a life-threatening disease... surviving.” For us at the FJD, the importance of teamwork, exhibited in our daily work in the judicial process, was beautifully manifested on May 11th, 2003, when a significant number of our FJD colleagues went out for the cause, and, true to form, helped in their own way to fight the good fight.

While all the FJD personnel were supporting Breast Cancer research, many of them, including some of those featured here, have special stories to tell.

From Adult Probation and Parole Department (APPD), **Lenora Bryant-Johnson**, not only ran the Race, but also is a standout marathoner. Her APPD colleague, **Judith Plonski-Gonzales** ran for her fourth year in a row while raising \$740.

Jacqueline Caruso, Juvenile Probation Officer, herself a nine-year cancer survivor, participated with **Edward Price, Jay and Deb Schrass**, and **Andrea Ferlaino**. Also from Juvenile, **Patricia Howell** ran in memory of her friend’s mother for the eighth year.

The Trial Division Civil workforce was represented by **Evelyn Thompson**, and **Lisa S. Mapp** (wife of DCA **Charles Mapp Sr.**)

The editor’s wife, **Lisa C. Hacking** was also there with her crew.

The Family Division Domestic Relations Branch was well represented by the **Honorable Margaret McKeown** and **Eileen Voegelé**. **Marianne Lassiter-Ralph** was there with her two daughters as their Mothers’ Day gift to her. She has been involved since 1995, and she’s run since 2000. **Gerald Mullin** ran in memory of his sister **Carolann Mullin Leuthy**, who was an Assistant District Attorney. Also there were **Fred Keller**, his daughter **Cara**, **Linda Boice**, **Dawn Wilkerson** and **Samuel Irons**.

The Complex Litigation Center sent **Marlene Dorsey** and **Kristen Dorsey**.



Back row, from left: Theresa Higgins, Mitchell Klevan, Ilene Suplee, Ernestine Green-Williams, Judge Marlene Lachman, Judge John O’Grady, President Judge Frederica A. Massiah Jackson, Don Suplee, Jackie Cook, Rita McDonough, Judge Gwendolyn Bright, Dina DeCarlo, Rosemarie DeCarlo, Kelly Cook and Amy Goldman. Front row, from left: Judge Flora Wolf, Judge Carolyn Temin, Judge Jane Greenspan, Judge Anne Lazarus, Judge Myrna Field, Judge Lillian Ransom.

From the chambers of Myna P. Field, Administrative Judge of the Family Division, came the following roster of those participating under the FJD banner: **President Judge Frederica Massiah-Jackson, Hon. Carolyn Temin, Hon. John O’Grady, Hon. Myrna Field, Hon. Gwendolyn Conway, Hon. Lillian Ransom, Hon. Flora Wolf, Hon. Sandra Mazer Moss, Hon. Jane Greenspan, Hon. Anne Lazarus, E. Harris Baum, Denise Cannataro, Kelly Cook, Jacqueline Cook, William Deane, Edina DeCarlo, Rosemarie DeCarlo, Douglas Gauck, Amy Goldman, Theresa Higgins, Perry Kaplan, Mitchell Kaplan, Sharon Kaplan, Larissa Klevan, Mitchell Klevan, Beatrice Klevan, Rita McDonough, Jonathan Spector, Sue Spector, Jonathan Weiss, Ernestine Williams, Susannah Wolf, Abigail Wolf, and Stanley Wolf.**

The challenges, both personal and public, that breast cancer and the myriad forms that cancer takes are literally, matters of life and death. However, events like the Race for the Cure carry real benefits for the individual participants, those battling this terrible disease, and the public at large. They provide a positive, hopeful perspective. These events contribute to the quality of life that we all can enjoy. The manner in which we endure is important. As survivor **Sarah Hacking** (15) put it when talking about cancer, chemotherapy, painful surgery, and loss of hair, “I am lucky. I’m lucky that I survived these things – and survived them well.”

The race for the cure provides funding, companionship, the knowledge that we are NOT alone, and all the while underscores the importance of not just surviving, but surviving well.

Child Support Amnesty Offered

To provide an opportunity for parents to re-establish support payments, Administrative Judge **Myrna P. Field** proclaimed Monday June 16th through Thursday July 3rd, 2003 as the term for the Family Court Child Support Amnesty program. During Amnesty 2003, parents who owed child support payments or had outstanding bench warrants were given the opportunity to resolve their past due support obligations without fear of arrest.

Amnesty 2003 notices were mailed to parents who failed to obey court orders or who had warrants for their arrest. The notice assured delinquent payers that they could avoid arrest, incarceration, and further legal penalties by reporting in person to the Philadelphia Family Court’s Domestic Relations Division, to make payment arrangements. Parents were required to bring paperwork and a good faith payment on their past due child support. Job placement services were available for unemployed parents.

While participation resulted in benefits all around, the inverse is also true. Failure to take advantage of the opportunity carries the possibility of some severe consequences, including the arrest of delinquent parents, the imposition of fines, or incarceration for up to six months. More importantly, non-cooperation means the further deprivation of children in need of support. In addition, the names of parents who failed to take advantage of Amnesty 2003 may be published in newspapers and other media venues. Their professional and driver’s licenses may be suspended. Their passports may be denied. Their State and Federal income tax refunds may be intercepted, their past due support may be reported to credit bureaus, with the balances due reduced to judgments. For more information about Amnesty 2003, please call (215) 686-4176 or visit www.phillychildsupport.com.

Mary’s Pink Posse

Continued from Front

their fellow employees’ and friends’ family and friends, and their family and friends, etc., etc., for their enthusiastic, generous, and loving support.

We would like everyone to know that The Posse will be roaming the streets next year on Mother’s Day. So close your eyes, clear your mind, and think of this phrase: “Join the Posse!”

Runner Has Competitive Spirit

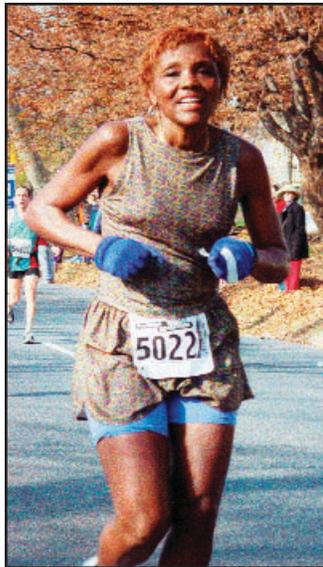
Leora Bryant-Johnson has been a City employee for over 26 years. The past ten of those years she has served as an Administrative Technician with the Adult Probation/ Parole Department. Leora enjoys her job and prides herself on her stellar attendance record, as she has yet to utilize a sick day. She credits this accomplishment to her excellent physical and mental conditioning.

Leora is a Marathon Runner. A Marathon is a foot race that spans 26.2 miles. She started running 20 years ago for recreation. Today that recreation has burgeoned into an all out passion and vital component in her life. This "Hometown Hero" has competed in 14 races. Drawing inspiration from Venus and Serena Williams, Leora prides herself on commitment and drive. She is the personification of positivity and friendliness. Affectionally called Ms. Lee, she couples aggressiveness and passion with enthusiasm and consistency and practices them on the track, at work, and in life. Leora praises her sister Kim and niece Nancy as well as her parents Helen and Lavesta as her source of fortitude and desire.

Leora is a true competitor as she completed the New York Marathon braving the frigid weather with a temperature of nine degrees below zero. Her competitive spirit has afforded her the opportunity to compete in Virginia, Pennsylvania, Alaska, as well as in the Bahamas. Our Ms. Lee's ultimate goal is to qualify for the 50,000 plus person Boston Marathon in 2004. To accomplish this feat she says she must first qualify with a 4 hour 5 minute time.

Ironically this 50 year old marathon phenom does not diet. She accredits her athletic frame to rigorous training four times per week. To date Leora's highest finish was in May 2003 when she competed in Philadelphia's 10 mile Broad Street Run. Leora finished 14th of 126 women! However as a testament to her humbleness, Leora beams with pride as she talks about competing in the Race for the Cure. This one mile walk had sentimental value as her mother and sister are both survivors of Breast Cancer.

Leora Johnson-Bryant will be competing in Arizona. Here around the office we will be pulling for her and wish her well as she attempts to accomplish her goals.



Adult Probation's Leora Bryant always has smile on her face, even when competing (above) and especially when crossing the finish line (below).



Philadelphia Reads Kicks Off Another Season

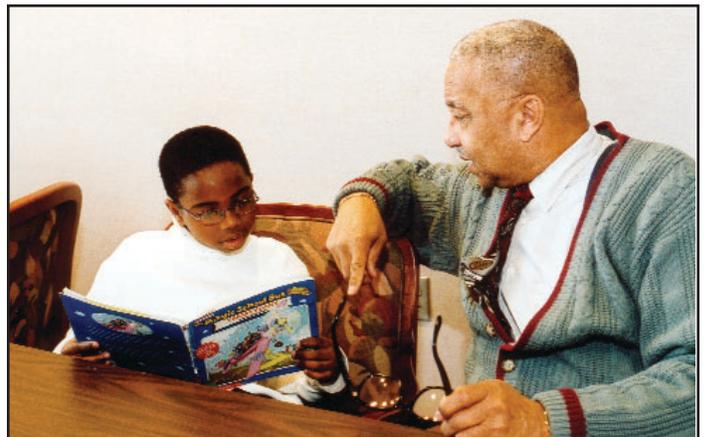
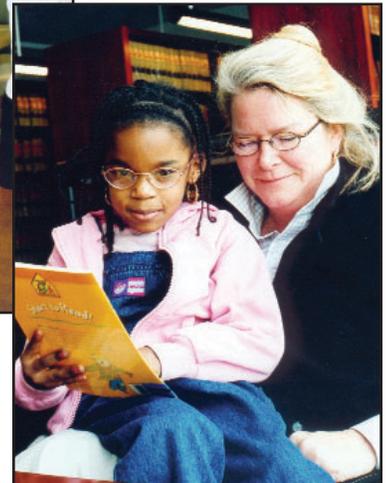
September means students heading back to school and this means that the First Judicial District is ready to kick off its fifth year in the Philadelphia Reads program. The goal is to provide positive role models while helping the children to enjoy reading and improve their reading skills.

Last year's program was a success thanks to volunteers **Ann Burgos, Barbara Carr, Candi Alice, Carey Widman, Christine Adair, Deedra Vincent, Denise Jenkins, Donna Candelora, Donna Woelpper, Beth Gordon, Francine Donto, Franzella Parsons, Henry Knox, Illene Suplee, Jonquil Clark, Joyce Ferrero, Karen Walton, Karleen Flowers, Judge Lisa Rau, Lorraine Ricks, Mark Poggio, Mary Politano, Michael DeMarco, Michelle Ackroyd, Barbara Cauthorne, Michelle Montano, Monique Severio, Nicole Harrington, Onasa Wearing, Ronald Wilson, Stephen Guerra, Tiara Register, Tiffany Washington, Tynara Chappelle, Veronica Whitaker, John Purtell III, Wayne Bennett, Yvonne Henry, and Judge Overton.**

Reads Coordinator **Maureen Wooten** is looking for volunteers to spend one lunch hour each week working with a child from a local school. Anyone interested should contact Maureen at 683-7148.



Beth Gordon (above), Christine Adair, Esquire (right) and Ronald Wilson (below) enjoy a reading session with their students.



ANNIVERSARIES

The following employment anniversaries were reached during the period January-June 2003.

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Paul J. Belfield Jr, Court Reporting
John M. Belli, Judge Minehart
Christina R. Bleistine, Juvenile
John Bova, Traffic Court
Roy C. Chambers, III, Dom. Rel.
Michelle A. Cobrin, Data Processing
Dorothy V. Dempsey, Municipal Court
Richard J. Hall, Building & Facilities
Joseph B. Henigan, Municipal Court
Michael A. Horan, Domestic Relations
Joseph A. McDermott Jr., Mun. Court
Lisa McNevin, Active Crim. Records
Ruth Meanor, Court Reporters
Mildred Mendez, Adult Probation
Michael A. Menna, Dom. Relations
Debra A. Panepinto, Tipstaff
Fredric A. Pastino, Adult Probation
Mildred Saulsby-Brawley, Dom. Rel.
Gerald Sperlunto, Traffic Court
John R. Tyson, Domestic Relations
Donald A. Varley, Building & Facilities
Kathleen A. Zeller, Tipstaff

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Murray A. Blumberg, Juvenile
Patricia A. Carr, Traffic Court
Barbara A. Carrullo, Dom. Relations
Pearl C. Carr, Judge Manfredi
Sandra M. DeMuro, Juvenile
Eva M. Dixon, Human Resources
Margaret Donapel, Procurement
John F. Fudala, Traffic Court
Dennis R. Lee, Juvenile
Susan B. Markowitz, Juvenile
Barbara A. Mattia, Domestic Relations
Richard M. Mattia, Bldg. & Facilities
Bonnie O'Kane, Prothonotary
Theresa M. Razzano, Juvenile
Miriam I. Rodriguez, Dom. Relations

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

John M. Beck, Adult Probation
Willie L. Blue, Municipal Court
Harriet D. Broussard, Prothonotary
John P. Buggy, Juvenile
Michael T. Carpenter, Juvenile
Eula M. Chester, Adult Probation
Peter Day Jr., Adult Probation
Theodora F. Demonte, Dom. Rel.
George H. Eckhardt, Juvenile
Larry E. Gardner, Adult Probation
Nicolas P. Gentile, Bldg. & Facilities
Dominic A. Jacquinto, Juvenile
Garry A. Johnson, Adult Probation
Margaret D. Kaufmann, Juvenile
Charles N. Keith III, Adult Probation
Rose M. Lalli, Judge Sylvester
Lesley S. Lee, Juvenile
Kenneth L. Mullen, Adult Probation
Edward W. Rementer Jr., Admin. Svcs.
Maria E. Rosado, Adult Probation
Thomas M. Ruth, Juvenile
Jean K. Serinsky, Juvenile
Joseph A. Tobin, Adult Probation

Falling for Ridge Avenue

The National Arts Program Foundation, with the City of Philadelphia, and the City Representative's Office of Arts and Culture, featured the artistic talent of City of Philadelphia employees and their families. Sponsored by the National Arts Program Foundation for the encouragement and development of artistic talent, amateur artists, intermediate, and professionals submitted entries that were reviewed and judged for prizes. The first National Arts program began as a pilot program in Philadelphia in 1985. This year the exhibition showcased 108 artists.

Stephanie Garrett, Office of the Prothonotary, Commencement Unit, submitted a photograph she took at the vicinity of Ridge Avenue and East River Drive more than two years ago. Stephanie's entry #9, *Falling for Ridge Avenue*, won third place and a \$100.00 cash prize in the amateur category.

Stephanie has worked in the Prothonotary's Office for over 20 years. Her son, Steven, 15 yrs. old, has distinguished himself as a dragon boat racer. Stephanie's use of a Kodak 35 mm disposable camera to capture the stunning, multicolored composition was the envy of many of the professional photographers who submitted entries. She fielded many questions concerning her "technique"

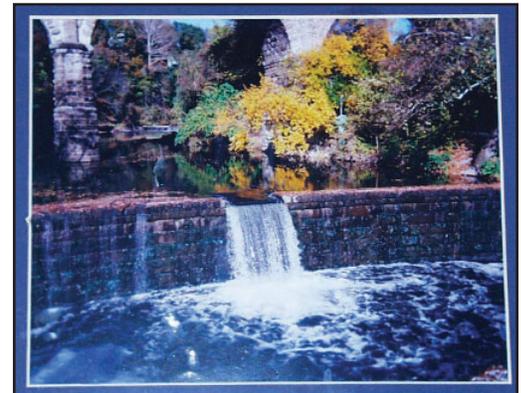
and "f-stop" configurations. "I was flattered by everyone's attention and had to make a real attempt to convince these people that I had used a disposable camera! It's a habit of mine to take a camera along with me while walking. The scene of the falls at Ridge Avenue in the autumn of the year was so beautiful, I just had to try and capture it on film. I had the original photo enlarged, framed, and hung in my living room. That was two years ago."

Stephanie said that she was happy to participate and wanted to share her photo with others. "I have various interests and a great appreciation for the arts. The program is a great opportunity for everyone to share their artistic interest and work. Hopefully, more people will be encouraged to do the same. It was a wonderful experience."

The exhibit entries were hung on the west side of the 4th and 5th floors of City Hall. The general exhibit has been extended until September.



Above: Stephanie Garrett displays her third-place ribbon. Below: The prize-winning photograph.



Court Youth Excel in Summer Employment Program

By *Junious R. Stanton*

Together with the City of Philadelphia, the WorkReady Program, Youth Works, and the Family Court partnered in a unique summer program for young people between the ages of 14 and 21. The program is designed to help kids improve academic skills, earn high school credit, become exposed to employment readiness and the world of work preparedness, gain work related experiences, interact with caring and concerned adults, and make \$5.15 an hour in the process.

WorkReady Philadelphia is a collaboration of myriad federal, state, and local governmental agencies, the School District of Philadelphia, philanthropic founda-

tions, commercial banks, and corporations. The Philadelphia Department of Recreation agreed to sponsor fifty youth from the Family court. Recreation Commissioner Victor N. Richards III and Family court Administrative Judge Myrna Field saw the need to involve court-adjudicated youth in a meaningful and enriching summer program.

The program required that each participant complete a project or portfolio. The young people chose Healthy Lifestyles as their theme. They worked individually and together on their projects and won first place in the creativity category in competition with 5,000 other young people in the program.

At a celebration held during their final weekly session, Family Court personnel **Catherine Zalenski**, Coordinator of the Youth Connect Program; **Christine Bleistine**, Supervisor of the Community Service Unit, and **Julia Davis**, Family Court Employment Coordinator; along with Martin Luther King Recreation Center advisors **Diana Richmond** and **John T. Harris** and Philadelphia Youth Network Coordinator **Dawn Moore** provided certificates of appreciation and accomplishment and served a lunch to the young people as a reward for completing the program and earning first place. Deputy Commissioners **Carlton Williams**

Continued, page 7

4th Annual Juror Appreciation Day A Big Success

“Without jurors, our democratic justice system does not function,” explained Administrative Judge **James J. Fitzgerald** at the FJD’s fourth annual Juror Appreciation Day, which was held on May 8, 2003. President Judge **Frederica Massiah-Jackson** described this year’s event as a “most successful Juror Appreciation Day.”

Judge **Jacqueline Allen** acted as the Master of Ceremony for this year’s festivities, during which “citizen heroes” were recognized for fulfilling their civic obligation by serving on jury duty.

Celebrity heroes in attendance included Don Tollefson, sports anchor for Fox29, and Coach John Chaney from Temple University basketball, both of whom served on jury duty over the past few years and spoke about their experience to the more than 300 citizens gathered in the jury assembly room.

Mayor John F. Street stopped by and shared comments about the crucial public service citizens are performing when they respond to the jury summons, telling the audience they should view service as a “privilege” and that it should be

something we would all be willing to do for “free.”

Councilwoman **Blondell Reynolds Brown** also in attended and read the citation from City Council regarding the importance of service.

Of course, events like this one cannot succeed without the efforts of many people behind the scenes. **Kelly Trush, Gail Blair, Lori Bellinger, Carol Blackmon,** and

Kellyann Parkinson worked hard to get ready for the day’s events. **Dona Rhuberg, Helen Holdsworth, Anne Foy, Tommy Novelli, Arlene Bey** and **Cindy Young** kept things moving that morning to make sure that the jurors eventually got to the courtrooms. A special thanks goes out to **Joe Evers, Bill Rullo** and **Tony Romano** for their help.



Bottom row, from left: Cindy Young, Dona Rhuberg, and Helen Holdsworth. Back row, from left: Karen Blackburn, Tom Novelli, Kelly Trush, Arlene Bey, Gail Blair and Ann Foy. Not pictured: Lori Bellinger and Carol Blackmon.

Judge Gordon Visits Juvenile Institutions

In March, Juvenile Court Judge **Richard Gordon** traveled to western Pennsylvania to visit juveniles he had committed to the Fort Charles Young Boot and Hat Camp of VisionQuest. He had a chance to see the boot camp facility to observe the routine of the camp, and to talk with many of the 23 delinquents committed there on his order.

The Derrick, the local paper published in Oil City, covered the visit. Col. Kenn Capper, the chief administrator at the camp, told the reporter that the kids from Philadelphia were delighted to hear that Judge Gordon was coming and looked forward to seeing him.

Judge Gordon commented that he makes it a point to visit the facilities to which he commits juveniles. He also gains

understanding from talking individually with kids after they have experienced the correctional programs.

In the photo below, the Judge poses for a photograph of the graduating class of the Summit Academy Program.



Elissa Uhrich, Adult Probation
Phillip J. Valone Jr., Prothonotary

35 YEARS OF SERVICE

Joseph A. Erace, Adult Probation

40 YEARS OF SERVICE

Francis E. Archie, Traffic Court
John J. Fitzgerald, Juvenile

RETIREMENTS

The following retirements were announced for the period July-December 2002.

George M. Abel, Tipstaff

19 years, 11 months

Joseph L. Bond, Jr., Adult Probation

32 years, 1 month

Luis A. Figueroa, Adult Probation

16 years, 6 months

Dennis M. Hanratty, Tipstaff

21 years, 8 months

Joanne Kusen, Domestic Relations

21 years, 2 months

William Lanzelotti, Prothonotary

38 years, 10 months

Julia M. Laws, Data Processing

26 year

Veronica McCafferty, Family Court

15 years, 2 months

John J. McCann, Data Processing

28 years, 5 months

Barbara L. McKay, Family Court

16 years, 7 months

Gloria Michetti, Municipal Court

14 year, 10 months

Shirley M. Moody, Prothonotary

11 years, 8 months

Clarence E. Smith, Tipstaff

26 years, 2 months

Nicholas Spadea, Bldg. & Facilities

24 years, 2 months

Thomas W. Steck, Tipstaff

31 years, 3 months

Dominic V. Venezia, Adult Prob.

30 years, 10 months

Joseph Kamnik Awarded

Joseph C. Kamnik, Jr., Director of Financial Services and IV-D Compliance from DR, was given the Robert S. Stewart Award from the Domestic Relations Association of Pennsylvania (DRAP). The Stewart Award is issued to individuals who have distinguished themselves for service to Pennsylvania’s children.

FJD Comes Through Again in Blood Drive (110%)

The 2003 First Judicial District Blood Drive was a tremendous success. The District received a certificate from the American Red Cross attesting to the fact that the FDJ achieved a 110% result for its goal in the morning, and, working around some Red Cross staffing problems, nonetheless made a good showing in the afternoon too.

More than 100 judges and employees appeared at courtroom 602 City Hall on August 12, 2003. Due to the efforts of those listed below, and with special thanks to all those who volunteered and showed up to donate, the Red Cross estimates that 171 lives were saved that day.

2003 FJD Blood Drive Coordinators

Criminal Justice Center

William Gallagher
Charles Lanzalotti
John Purtell, Jr.
Regina Purtell

City Hall

Stanley Chmielewski
Cereta Diggs
Claire Kelly
Michael Kilgallon
Edward Rementer
Dominic Rossi
Maureen Simone

1401 Arch Street

Rhonda Mimms
Gloria Woodard

34 S. 11th Street

Clayton Carter
Russell Micciche

1801 Vine Street

Nancy Pollis
Jacqueline Mansfield

Land Title Building

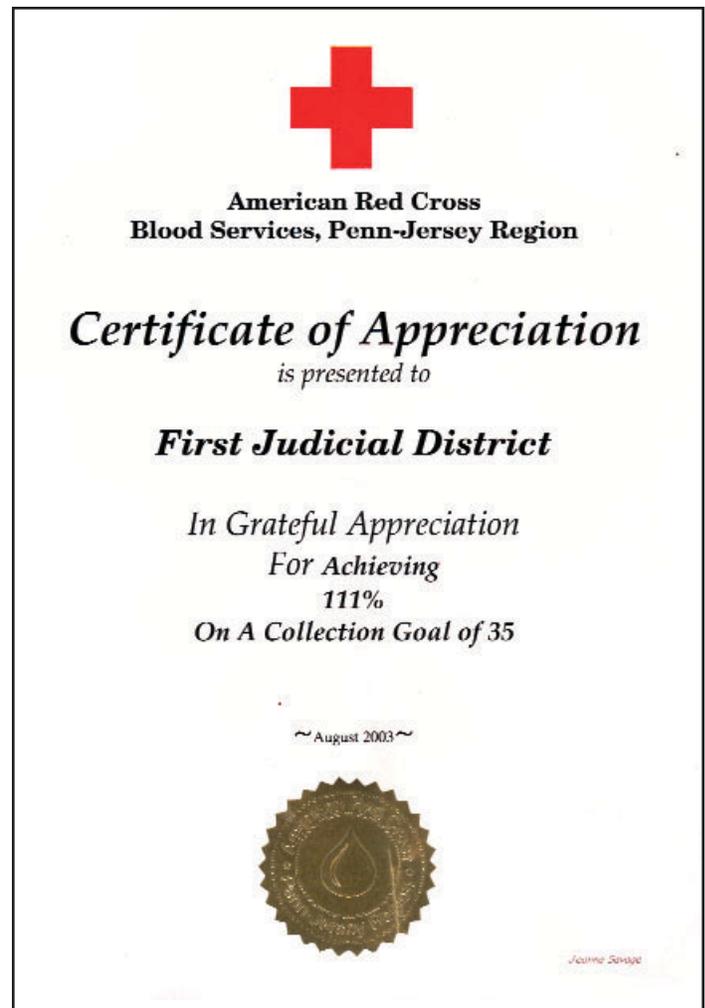
Dolores Policarpo

Traffic Court

Rita D'Amato

Administrative Group

Joseph Cairone
Cereta Diggs
Ellen Day
Carl Divens
David Lawrence
Lee Swiacki
Len Hacking



Rae Wardino Honored as Outstanding Child Advocate

Rae Wardino, the Family Division Director of Dependency Court Operations, was recognized by the Support Center for Child Advocates at their annual awards program on May 14th at the First Union Bank on Broad Street. Over 400 people came for the awards program and the auction to benefit the Support Center that followed. The Support Center for Child Advocates provides social work and legal services to attorneys who volunteer their services to represent abused and neglected children in child welfare cases conducted in Family Court. Frank Cervone, the Support Center Executive Director, spoke of Rae's crucial work in managing the court cases of 10,000 children in foster care or at-home supervision by the

Department of Human Services. Mr. Cervone also described her as the heart of Dependency Court

because her heart is always with the children there. As a sign of their appreciation, Support Center staff

presented Rae with a painting of a happy child – the hope and aim of the Center and the court.

Later, during the auction, the Support Center offered a lovely quilt made with the outlines of handprints of children represented by their advocates. Some of the staff commented that they hated to part with it, but that it was going for a good cause. Rae won the quilt following a protracted round of bidding with a final bid of about \$2,600. After taking possession of the quilt, she quietly donated it back to the Support Center. Frank Cervone later announced that the quilt will be on display at the Support Center building at 1900 Cherry Street, with a plaque identifying Rae as the donor.



Rae Wardino (center) accepts her award.

Hardworking, Skillful POs Get Recognition

For the second year in a row, the Governor of Pennsylvania proclaimed Probation and Parole Officers/Agents Week in the Commonwealth. This year Governor Rendell proclaimed the week of July 13 through 19, 2003 as the tribute week. This gave pause and reason for reflection on just what our Probation/Parole Officers are all about; what do they bring to the job?

In Philadelphia County, there are more than 52,000 adults under the supervision of some 215 case carrying Adult Probation and Parole Officers (PO's). The officers must wear many hats to keep up with offenders. POs are law enforcement officers, social workers, drug counselors, family therapists, court liaisons, mediators, mentors, town watch participants, community advocates, caseload managers, money collectors, and victim's advocates; along with many other services provided to the court and community. They do all this while appearing at more than 2,400 court hearings a month, and traveling into the field to visit offenders and others at their homes and

work sites. All this is accomplished while interviewing about 75 to 100 offenders monthly in the office, and at the same time communicating with judges, social service agencies, lawyers, and other law enforcement agencies.

You may wonder where one would find someone to qualify to perform all these tasks. Adult Probation and Parole Department POs arrive at our department after receiving a college degree in various disciplines. Many arrive with graduate degrees and other professional school degrees including law degrees. There is an extensive training period, a professional mentor process (see last Courterly issue), and continuing on-the-job training provided by PO Supervisors. After arriving as new POs, many officers enroll in graduate schools – here, in the Philadelphia area and even as far

away as Florida. Currently there are more than 16 POs enrolled at St. Joseph's University Graduate Schools pursuing professional degrees in Criminal Justice, Clinical Psychology, Organizational Development, and Behavioral Analysis. Several POs are in area law schools and other university graduate programs. A recent survey showed that over 20 POs were in grad school or that they had graduated during the previous two months.

So thank you Governor Rendell, Mayor Street, Judge Massiah-Jackson, Judge Fitzgerald, and Co-Chiefs Robert Malvestuto and Frank Snyder for your recognition. Also, thanks to all of you who recognize the efforts of Probation and Parole Officers. And for those of you who

didn't know what the job entailed, perhaps you can now better appreciate the wide range and depth of services involved in Probation Officers' jobs.

Court Youth Excel

(continued from page 4)

and **Facetta Green** stopped by to congratulate the winners, express their appreciation for their effort and offer best wishes in their future endeavors. Williams stated, "On behalf of the Mayor we wanted to make sure that we provided the young people throughout the city with meaningful and positive employment opportunities. This (the court adjudicated youth component) was just one avenue to give our young people a chance to prove themselves as productive members of society."

Hector Rivera, 18, is a graduate of Edison High School who drew one of the winning posters. He was skilled and mature enough to assist the rest of the students with their projects and he gained from the experience. "I learned that there is plenty of opportunity out there for us, you don't have to be out in the streets getting into trouble. We can work and live our life in a happy way." He is planning to move to Florida and attend art school there.

Michael Nelson, 17, a student at Germantown High School was a peer tutor in the program. "It taught me a lot more responsibility and how to be to work on time. I didn't mind helping the other students." **Anthony Campbell**, 16, attends West Philadelphia High School was referred to the program by his case manager. "I got a lot of work experience in the business world on how to be a more productive citizen and how to better manage my money. I learned a lot of skills how to work together in a group, how to be creative and how to do whatever I want once I put my mind to it." Campbell was ecstatic when his group won first prize in the competition. "I was excited and I felt so good that I accomplished something and finished it to the end." Overall all the participants seemed to have enjoyed the experience, they definitely enjoyed the celebration party.

Photo at Right: Co-Chiefs Robert Malvestuto (left) and Frank Snyder (right) were presented with a plaque by Administrative Judge James J. Fitzgerald III.

Photo Below: Probation Officers gather for a group shot.



A Pedestrian Hit Me

Descriptions of Car Accidents Written on Insurance Claim Forms

- "The indirect cause of this accident was a little guy in a small car with a big mouth."
- "The guy was all over the road. I had to swerve a number of times before I hit him."
- "I pulled away from the side of the road, glanced at my mother-in-law, and headed over the embankment."
- "I had been learning to drive with power steering. I turned the wheel to what I thought was enough and found myself in a different direction going the opposite way."
- "I saw the slow-moving, sad-faced old gentleman as he bounced off the hood of my car."
- "I was sure the old fellow would never make it to the other side of the road when I struck him."
- "I told the police that I was not injured, but on removing my hat, I found that I had a fractured skull."
- "A pedestrian hit me and went under my car."
- "The other car collided with mine without giving warning of its intention."
- "I thought my window was down; but found it was up when I put my hand through it."
- "No one was to blame for the accident, but it never would have happened if the other driver had been alert."
- "I had been driving for 40 years when I fell asleep at the wheel and had an accident."
- "I was taking my canary to the hospital. It got loose in the car and flew out the window. The next thing I saw was his rear end, and there was a crash."
- "I was backing my car out of the driveway in the usual manner when it was struck by the other car in the same place where it had been struck several times before."
- "The accident happened when the right door of a car came around the corner without giving a signal."
- "I was thrown from my car as it left the road. I was later found in a ditch by some stray cows."
- "My car was legally parked as it backed into the other vehicle."

- "As I approached the intersection, a stop sign suddenly appeared in a place where no stop sign had ever appeared before. I was unable to stop in time to avoid the accident."
- "The telephone pole was approaching fast. I was attempting to swerve out of its path when it struck my front end."
- "I had been shopping for plants all day and was on my way home. As I reached an intersection, a hedge sprung up, obscuring my vision."
- "I was unable to stop in time, and my car crashed into the other vehicle. The driver and passengers then left immediately for a vacation with injuries."



SHE KNOWS HOW TO BRIGHTEN UP A ROOM

Mary Jennings knows how to dress up her surroundings. Employees and visitors to the 13th floor are treated to a colorful display in the reception area that changes with each holiday. Not only does Mary put great deal of effort into the decorations, she pays for them herself. She is pictured here with co-worker Joe Stipa.



PEOPLE WHO GET THE JOB DONE

From left: Claire Holloway, Joe McDermott, Paulette Scanlon Hess and John Joyce were key players in the renovation of the Civil Division facilities of the Municipal Court Building at 34 South 11th Street. The renovation project was featured in the last issue of *The Courterly*. Not pictured but also instrumental in the process were Maggie Meehan and Russell Micciche.

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All members of the FJD are encouraged to submit ideas or suggestions. Submissions may be made to the department representatives above, to Len Hacking in Room 395 City Hall or via email to len.hacking@courts.phila.gov.