

Community Voices: Letters To The Editor



The Lansing Singing Sweethearts - Shirley Woodward, Maxinne Flynn, Sophie Caliel, Louise Cornish, Bette Whipple, Mary Listar, Marian Howe, Catherine Mike, Jessie Howe, Evelyn Crawford and Gloria Werner stand behind Alice Humerez and Norma Stevenson. (Missing from the photo are Anne Nedrow, Betty Keller and Marg Darchangelo.)

Dear Editor,

It all started as an innocent "lark" when Alice Humerez asked for volunteers to sing for the entertainment at the Lansing seniors' February, 1996 monthly luncheon. There was a tremendous response, to say the least.

Since then, we have continued to entertain Seniors in Groton, Dryden, Varna, Enfield Center, Lansingville and Cortland as well as residents at Lakeside Nursing Home in Ithaca and a group of, of all things, machinists! We also have a few more "gigs" in the spring.

Our musical director is Shirley Woodward and accompanists are Jesse Howe on accordion and Maxine Flynn on keyboard.

We sing and act out many of the songs with props and <needless to say> we really enjoy entertaining the audience!

Bette Whipple

Dear Editor,

The Owego, NY V.F.W. Post # 1371 has declared November 24th, 1996 as Recognition Day for Vietnam era Veterans from around the area.

Veterans from all branches of the service, no matter where you served during the period of January, 1959 to May, 1975, and their families will be the guests of honor.

We are hoping to have displays of memorabilia, books, tapes, slides, etc on hand. Food will be provided by Post 1371.

The doors at 207 Main Street will open at 1:00 P.M. If you need additional information or have any questions, or have any items that you would be willing to add to our displays and share with us, please call me at 607-748-1316.

It's your day. Come out and join us.

Joe Krystek

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Lansing Middle school cast and crew of "Once Upon A Mattress," we would like to express our thanks to the following businesses for their generous contributions: Bagelover's, Baker's Acres, Lori's Place, Rick's Rental, Brown Hill Bakery, Ithaca Tops and Triphammer P&C.

Many thanks as well to all the parent volunteers who gave their time and most especially to Cindy Howell and Beth McGuire for sharing their many talents, pro-

ducing and directing such a successful play.

The coverage given the play by our own Lansing Community News was terrific and was very much appreciated. Keep up the good work.

**Deb Bowen
Pat Poch**

Dear Editor,

I have just learned that former Lansing resident and Lansing High School graduate Shannon Griffiths has been named director of the Hood College Honors Program.

Shannon graduated from Lansing in the early '70s, received a B.S. from Ithaca College and got her Masters and doctoral degrees from Northeastern University and the University of Pennsylvania.

Shannon currently lives in Frederick, Maryland where she is an associate professor of sociology at Hood College.

During her career Shannon has been researching prison medicine and medical care on American Indian reservations. She is now studying cultural aspects of mental health care and is editor of the American Sociological Association's *Sociology of Law* teaching materials.

Nelda B. Kubat
(retired teacher,
Lansing High School)

Pastoral Corner:

Gratitude Is Rarer Than Faith



Pastor Alan St. George

Joe grumbled as the alarm clock roused him from his sleep in a comfortable bed. He made his way to the kitchen, stopping to turn the thermostat up to take the chill out of the house. His wife and children were still peacefully asleep. Joe turned on the electric coffee maker and poured himself a glass of orange juice. He unbolted the front door, went outside, and retrieved the newspaper. Joe poured himself some coffee and turned on the radio to hear the news. It was Sunday morning, so Joe's family got a little extra sleep.

Sunday morning meant breakfast with the family. It was a hearty bacon and eggs meal, followed by the usual hassle for space in the bathroom and complaints about who used the most hot water. They all chose clothing from their full closets.

In a short time, the family was loaded into the car and off to church. Joe and his wife went off to the adult study class and the kids to their groups. Worship for the family followed. They sang songs of praise, listened to the Bible reading and proclamation from God's Word, and prayed.

When the minister asked if anyone had something that they would like to give thanks to God for, Joe remained silent. It had been a rough week. He wasn't feeling especially well and he was worrying about paying some bills. It being the end of the month finances were exceptionally tight.

Joe's story reminds me of an incident from the life of Jesus Christ that has been preserved for us by Luke in his gospel (Luke 17:11-19). In this story ten men afflicted with the disease of leprosy approached Jesus and asked for healing. We are told that Jesus was merciful to them and healed all ten of them. However, only one of the ten returned to give

thanks to Jesus and praise God. All had faith in the Lord. Only one was truly grateful for what God had done.

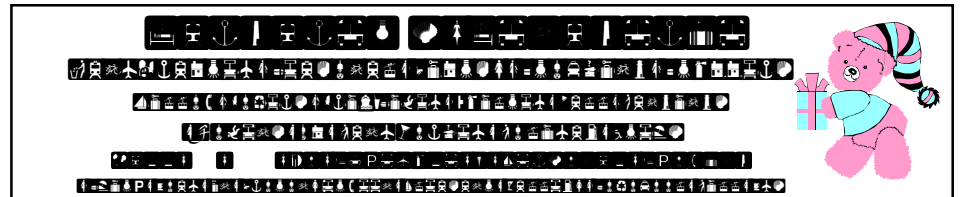
This brings us back to Joe. Obviously, Joe is a man of faith. He believes in God and has faith in the Lord. Yet, Joe is not a grateful person. Focusing only on his immediate problems he feels he has no reason to express gratitude to God. I suspect that there is a great deal of Joe in many of us.

Let's take another look at Joe's Sunday morning. For many people this is a pretty typical American Sunday you say. Look again! How many blessings did Joe and his family enjoy on this typical day? This "normal" routine is a parade of small miracles: a warm house which he owns, a comfortable bed, ample food, clean water, the unviolated privacy of the home, a newspaper which is free to print anything, a radio newscast with no censorship, an automobile, freedom to read and study the Bible, unlimited freedom of assembly and worship of his choice, a place to eat, plenty of good clothing and work at a job that he has chosen.

If you think there is nothing very special about this, think again. All these are the stuff of mere dreams for hundreds and millions of people on this planet. This thanksgiving, let us be truly be thankful to God for what we do have. May our gratitude not be rarer than our faith.

(Rev. St. George is pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Lansing.)

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