

A Personal Remembrance

As this century draws to an end, there are many changes which will forever alter the landscape and character of Lake Ridge. There are so many facets to the character, the layout of the farmlands, the styles of houses, the roads that connect us, the wild-life that we share this space with, and the most important part of it all is the people.

Often we do not notice many of the smaller blocks that are integral to how our lives are intertwined with our environment. A small yet significant detail has passed from our grasp this past January, when Catharina van de Velde went to a gentler place of peace and freedom from pain.

After an extended battle with cancer, she was able to spend her final moments with family and friends. These friends have been cultivated over 47 years, the time which marked Catharina's immigration from Amsterdam in 1950 with her husband and 2 young children. After enduring the horrors and devastation sustained as a result of World War II, the van de Velde's decided to come to America to find a new life.

They arrived in Lansing where her uncle and cousins were here working their farm, the Bucks' farm. The newcomers worked on the family farm, Catharina mainly in the home at the farm and doing minor yet tedious outdoor chores; taking on many tasks and duties which were foreign to how they had lived in their ancestral home in Amsterdam.

Along with the required adjustments to learn a new language and culture, there was the inevitable stress of strangers in a foreign

land. The marriage was not able to withstand these pressures and Catharina was divorced soon after arrival. She stayed on at the farm with the children and her relatives. Though she would have preferred to return to Amsterdam, finances would not permit it and her children were truly acclimated Americans by then.

Although Catharina found the isolation of farm life to be one of endurance, she marveled at and enjoyed the open spaces of her new home. The land from whence she immigrated was densely populated, with a flat countryside and a system of finely organized roads was conducive to biking. Transportation was by bicycle or a sophisticated mass transit system.

In Lansing, the many hills and great distances to the stores meant travel was restricted. All ventures were done as mutual field trips with other family members at regular intervals. Money was not readily available so that the lack of shopping was not as much a burden for those who were close to being self sustaining on a family farm.

Being condemned to the solitude of farm life in the early fifty's, Catharina dedicated much of her time to gardening both vegetables and flowers. She was very capable of providing a nourishing and tasty meal for her family. To this, she added to the sense of home by bringing the many colors of Holland to Lansing in her small yet bountiful flower assortment. Catharina worked very hard to give her children a sense of feeling loved and belonging to a community.

Both Pauline and Henry are testaments to her success, as is Gloria, Henry's wife, who also emulates the values that Catharina displayed. No better a definition of a life well spent can be found. Catharina instilled in all of them an ability to always see amusement in their predicaments; that all burdens can be made lighter and easier with humor.

This was one of the greatest strengths that the family was able to call upon to help the passing of Catharina to her final destination. As Henry recalled at the gathering for Catharina at Wagner's Funeral Home,

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Take It All Off At The Weigh-Down Workshop

Tired of diets that don't work? Sick of counting calories and grams of fat? The Lansing United Methodist Church is sponsoring a fresh, new approach to weight loss called "The weigh Down Workshop."

The weigh Down Workshop maintains that traditional weight-loss programs keep people focused on food, specifically what they should and should not eat. This program provides a different focus - faith.

Through a series of specially designed classes of videos, audio cassettes, tapes, workbooks and Bible lessons, participants will learn how to keep food from controlling them.

Come to an informational meeting to learn more about the Weigh Down Workshop at the Lansing United Methodist Church on Monday, March 17 at 7:00 p.m.

No matter what your age, size or past dieting experience, this program is for you! The meeting is free, non-denominational and open to the public.

For additional information, call Kathy Lee, evenings, at 533-8650.

TC3 Scholarship

The TC3 Writers' Guild is offering a \$500 Creative Writing Scholarship scholarship to all area high school seniors. The winner must attend TC3 in the fall 1997 semester to receive payment.

Submissions are limited to short fiction, 1,500 words or less. All work must be typed, double-spaced and submitted by May 1. Winners will be notified by mail no later than June 2.

For further information, contact the office of public relations at 844-8211 (ext. 4366).

right up to the end Catharina always looked for the bright and happy in each day. She would never choose a dark and drab shirt when a brightly colored football jersey was available.

This lovely lady was among us for a long time, yet so many of us were not even aware of who lived in that farmhouse on Fenner Road. There surely are many more who have helped to create this community that passed unnoticed by many. However the bounty of their efforts is reaped by all. Thank you, Catharina, for the threads you wove into the colorful tapestry of Lake Ridge.

- Tricia Torney



Rec. Dept. Seeks '97 LBP/LSP Signups

The Town of Lansing Recreation Department is currently accepting registrations for youth baseball and softball. The Lansing Baseball Program (LBP) is for players currently in school and up through 12 years of age. The Lansing Softball Program (LSP) is for players in grades K-8. Program fees are \$15 for either the LBP or SBP.

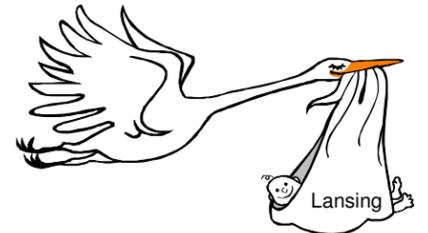
Registration forms are in the Lansing schools and are available at the Recreation office in the Lansing Town Hall on the Auburn Road.

All registration forms and fees must be returned to the Recreation office by March 21. Additional information may be found on the form.

Please call the Lansing Recreation Department with any additional questions at 533-7388.

Karate Class Still Open

Several openings remain in the Town Recreation Department's Karate class. If you've ever imagined yourself simultaneously developing physical and mental concentration, this may be for you. Call 533-7388 for details.



Amanda Hirschey was born to Samuel Villanti and Laura Hirschey on February 7, 1997.

Marrie Jo Arcangeli was born on February 9, 1997 to Francis and Brenda (Hall) Arcangeli.

Ian Chien-hao was born on February 11, 1997 to Chin-Chang Chu and Jane-Jane Lo.

All were welcomed to our world at the Cayuga Medical Center.

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Rogue's Harbor

Steak & Ale

Saint Patrick's Celebration
Friday, Saturday & Sunday, March 14 -16

ERIN GO BRAGH

JUST 6 MILES NORTH OF ITHACA
ON EAST SHORE DRIVE IN LANSING
(CORNER OF ROUTES 34 & 34B)

533-3535