

From the Desk of Robert A. Pruznick, CEO

Commemorating Two Good Men

“Life levels all men; death reveals the eminent.” George Bernard Shaw

This summer we lost two valuable, dear members of The Arc Warren clan. They came to us from opposite sides of our “bipolar county”. One gentleman, from our eastern border with Morris County, joined our movement naturally – motivated by his nurturing love for his daughter. The other fellow from our western border with Pennsylvania chose to dedicate himself professionally to the service of those with intellectual disabilities as a special education teacher and administrator. Both were exceptional lifetime advocates and both left us far too early. Most interestingly, both men had farm tractors at their memorial services.

Now considering that Philip J. Hazen had been a proud member of the Warren County agricultural community all his life, managing Hazen Farms into its second century of family ownership, I wasn’t at all surprised to see that his son Charles, who took over the farm operations, drove a favorite John Deere to the parking lot of Cochran’s Funeral Home. As a member of the County Board of Agriculture, Agway Board of Directors and the Dairy Herd Hall of Fame, such a vivid reminder of who Phil was – heart & soul – brought a tear to my eye. Such men are the backbone of our society – and they produce more than food. They are multifaceted cultivators – terrific husbands, fathers and family members – community activists who love the land and take care of their neighbors – who make this Warren County a wholesome environment for raising children. It was a privilege working with Phil and wife Betty to create a sound home for Terri in Hackettstown where she has blossomed.

John Pappas, a Phillipsburg native, was a “gentleman farmer” who worked his rural property north of Easton as an avocational pleasure. At John’s memorial gathering, there alongside his ashes, was a model of his favorite mode of transportation – a compact but fully functional tractor – what a coincidence! John was a beloved pedagogue who brought enlightenment, compassion and joy to all who knew him. He was a force for progressive special education not only in Phillipsburg but also across the county through his tenure with the Special Services School District. During the course of his career he served as teacher, principal, coach, mentor and superintendent. John also found time for civic duty – volunteering for zoning board, Meals on Wheels and Safe Harbor. Most importantly for me – he was an Arc Warren board member at the beginning of my tenure.

A poignant prayer that I found on Phil’s remembrance card captures the gist of this sweet analogy, lamenting the passing of such hard working and giving men:

“We plant our seeds and watch them grow, and when they are ready, we harvest the crops. In Philip Hazen and John Pappas the Lord has harvested the most bountiful crop. May the seeds of love and caring that Phil and John planted continue to grow and produce bountiful crops in the heart of family and friends.”

Arc Prom Was a Dazzling Summertime Affair



Joe

Kaplan and Karen Marshall were crowned King and Queen of the prom July 30, and they had plenty of glamorous competition when The Arc held its annual prom at Hawk Pointe Golf Club, Washington. Thanks to DJ Dr. D for making it extra special!

Enjoying the festivities were, from top, Mary McLennan and Carol Carter; Steve Yurga; Renee Ader; Liz Spann, Patty Leake, and Amanda Perelli; Donna and Corey Gruter; Diane Manno and Chris Wolf; Jill Pence; Bernadette Kappus and Eric Schoener; and Melissa Cutler.

This extraordinary affair was planned by Staff and consumers who include Carinne Buzzuto, Jenn Speth, Amanda Perelli, Linda Gunterm Chris Wolf, Corey Gruter, Debbie Stickle, Suzanne Delgado, Tony Despres, Mona Kerwit, Chip Firth, Judy Ader, Karen Marshall, Terry Hazen, Kim Russo, and Rosemarie Sharry. Special thanks to Jill Prakocyk, Serendipity, and The Arc's day program for decorations!

"Dancing Under the Stars", attended by more than 130 people, was the hit of the summer!

GRAND HARVEST WINE & MUSIC FESTIVAL

Sunday, September 25 ~ Noon to 5 pm ~ Rutherford Hall, Allamuchy



FREE WINE TASTINGS AND ETCHED GLASS WITH ADMISSION. GREAT FOOD AND VENDORS!

Brook Hollow Winery, Villa Milagro Winery, Ventimiglia Winery, Cava Winery & Vineyard

Event benefits NORWESCAP, The Arc of Warren County, and WNTI.ORG

Brought to you by ...

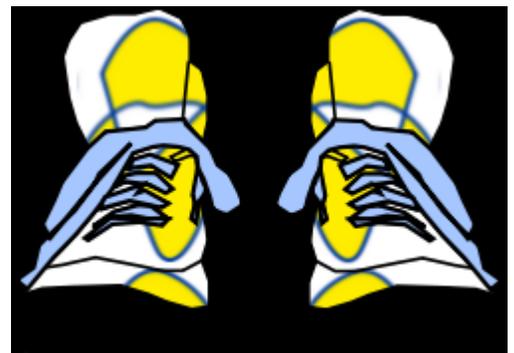


Visit: Grandharvestwinefestival.com for details and save \$5 on your ticket if ordered by Sept.20!

Step Up for The Arc Sept.11 to Support Arc Recreation

Raise funds for the Arc's Recreation Services while having a great time with your friends strolling through beautiful Meadow Breeze Park. From 10 am to 1 pm. You can help us provide and maintain our year round Recreation Programs such as, Healthy Life Club, Social Club, Bowling, Open Swim and many more. Join us after the walk for some light fare and good conversation among new and old friends.

You will also be a part of a state-wide "Step Up for The Arc" walkathon effort that has brought thousands of people together to support The Arc in every county in New Jersey.



What better way to let people know all of the great things The Arc means to you and your family? \$10 Fee Per Walker. Raise \$50 or more and the walk fee will be waived.

Contact Meghan Moyer at 908-689-7525 x 256 for a brochure or more information.

THE ARC OF WARREN COUNTY

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**SINCE 1954,
PROVIDING QUALITY
SERVICE AND SUPPORT
TO PEOPLE WITH
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Gratia Burke: A Treasured Volunteer and Friend

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of Gratia Burke, a longtime Arc volunteer and supporter, who passed away August 25 at home. She was an active and compassionate volunteer for many local organizations, but The Arc held a special place in her heart., leading to her determination to serve on our newly reorganized Board of Directors even as the end of her illness was approaching.

She was a valuable asset to several Arc departments, particularly Development and The Arc Foundation, where no fundraising or seminar mailing left without her able coordination. Her skill was matched by her good humor, and she will be missed terribly.

Gratis became acquainted with The Arc many years ago while still working as legal administrator for the Courter, Kobert law firm in Hackettstown. Associates and staff had decided to make a charitable contribution of gifts to Arc families in lieu of exchanging Christmas cards, and Gratia undertook the mission of shopping and wrapping gifts for several of our families in need. This continued for a few years until she retired, and all involved knew Christmas was made happier for their kindness.

We at The Arc have certainly been made happier for her presence among us for so many years. To Bryan Burke and family, thank you for sharing her with us.

