

OUR TOWN

THE MORNING NEWS



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LITTLE HANDS, BIG DREAMS PAGE 7H

WALK AIDS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL PAGE 10H

SECTION H • SUNDAY, OCT. 15, 2006

ALL OURS,
ALL HOURS

Retired Teacher Helps Community



Carin Schoppmeyer

The evening of Oct. 7 was a double-header for me — with both events devoted to raising money to give children extra opportunities in the arts and sports.

I first stopped by Yancey and Ginger Bowen's Fayetteville home as they hosted the celebration of the conclusion of Arts Live Theatre's fund-raiser with a Flockers Unite! party.

Adventure Subaru and Dennis and Carrie Nelms sponsored the party for about 75 supporters and board members of the youth theater group.

This year's second annual Flocking Flamingos fund-raiser garnered about \$4,000 that artistic education director Mark Smith told me will go toward children's scholarships and productions.

You may have seen the fund-raiser as it was going on if you drove by homes or businesses with about 50 plastic pink flamingos adorning their lawns. Those who were "flocked," then paid the theater group \$50 to be "deflocked" and send them on to their friends. Savvy supporters bought Flamingo Insurance to avoid a landing in their yards.

Arts Live Theatre offers programs for elementary through high school students such as theater classes and camps that, "range from introductory classes focused on creativity and social interaction to advanced classes in acting, voice, movement and technical theater."

Supporters out on the BOWENS' deck under the stars and twinkle lights included Johnny and Diann Williams, Missy Gocio, Sharon Guthrie, Curt Rom and Melissa Harwood-Rom, Jay and Aleza Greene, John Ray and Susan Idlet.

Rehearsals are under way for the group's next production, "James and the Giant Peach," to be staged Dec. 1, 2 and 3 at the UA Continuing Education auditorium. About 30 Northwest Arkansas fledgling performers are participating.

The Tom Pagnozzi Charities 15th annual banquet and sports memorabilia auction was another event taking advantage of the Razorbacks' not being in town last Saturday and had more than 800 sports enthusiasts drooling and bidding on more than 100 silent auction items.

Among the nearly 50 live auction items bidders could choose from were things like an autographed Shaquille O'Neal Orlando

SEE CARIN PAGE 4H

YOUTH ADVOCATE VOLUNTEERS TIME, EXPERIENCE IN AREA

By Marla Hinkle

THE MORNING NEWS • MHINKLE@NWAONLINE.NET

SPRINGDALE

California native Myrna Schwartz is a retired teacher who devotes her volunteer hours to myriad causes, several involving youth.

Schwartz serves as chairwoman for a civic club's Reading is Fundamental program and helps youth through the Court-Appointed Special Advocates program.

Q: What are some of your favorite volunteer projects?

A: Reading Is Fundamental at the preschools and my CASA volunteer experiences.

After one book distribution, we had one of our members in a Clifford the Big Red Dog costume. Some special needs children were watching as Clifford and the adults shared their stories. They were so excited.

At CASA, the most poignant moment was when my first case resulted in an infant being permanently placed for adoption with a really special family.

Now, my case is at the other end of the continuum with a teenager.

Q: What would you like to accomplish this year?

A: With CASA, I'd like to help this teenager move into more positive choices.

Q: What are some ways the youth in CASA have impacted your life?

A: After teaching more than 30 years in Ohio, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Kansas, I've worked with lots of children.

They need really involved adults to help nurture them so they can make good choices.

Q: What insight did you gain into children during your years as a teacher?

A: They are all special. Every child needs to know they are safe and have adults in their world who care about them and will be there to help

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS



MYRNA
SCHWARTZ

BIO BOX

MYRNA SCHWARTZ

Birthplace: Long Beach, Calif.

Birthdate: May 17, 1945.

Family: The former Newell Patton and Helen Patton. Two brothers and two sisters; two sons, Mike and Matt Schwartz.

Husband is Gary Schwartz. He works at the University of Arkansas in the Women's Athletic Program with special events and event management.

Occupation: Mary Kay consultant. She is a retired teacher, most recently from Southwest Junior High School in Lawrence, Kan., where she taught family and consumer science.

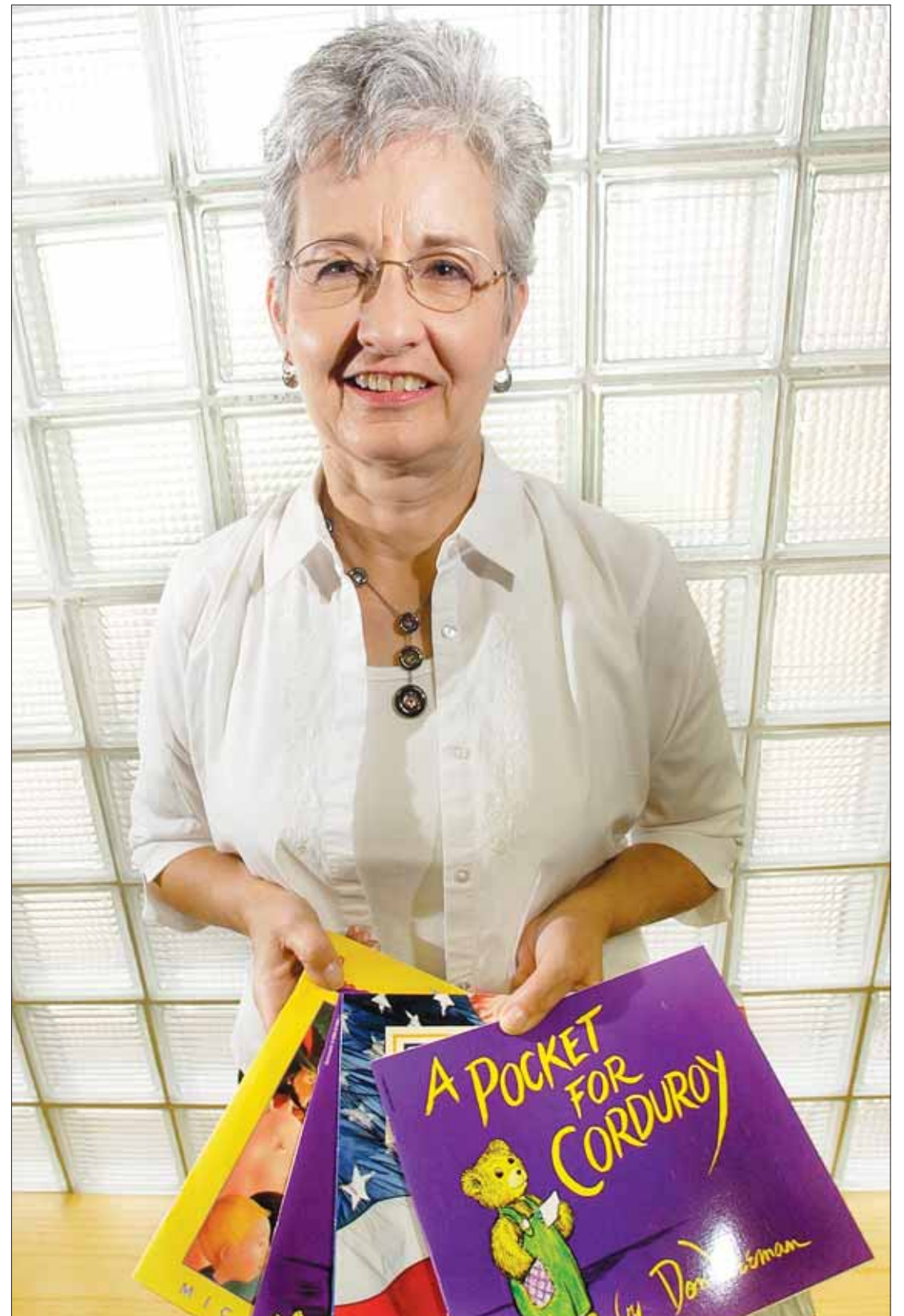
Affiliations: Board member of the Springdale Kiwanis Club, chairwoman of the club's Reading is Fundamental Program and volunteer with the Terrific Kids project at Young Elementary School in Springdale.

Volunteer at Willow Creek Women's Hospital and Court Appointed Special Advocates of Northwest Arkansas. Attends First Methodist Church in Springdale.

them. They learn in different ways, and every kid can learn.

Q: Any highlights you recall from teaching?

A: I taught a variety of subjects, including child development, baby-sitter training. I gave lots of demonstrations. You haven't lived until you've taught 24 seventh-graders how to make



NEEMAH A. ESMAELPOUR • THE MORNING NEWS

Springdale Kiwanis member Myrna Schwartz is heading the Reading is Fundamental program this year. As part of the service project, members go into schools and give children books in English and Spanish.

omelets at once.

Q: What is the single most important thing we can do to help children today?

A: Spend time with them — not just time — but being present with them. And look

for the good in each child, catch them being good and recognize them for that.

Q: Talk about your work with Kiwanis and the Reading Is Fundamental Program.

A: Right now we will serve

380 pre-kindergarten children in 19 classrooms in nine different sites.

A large percentage of children are English-as-a-second-language pupils, and so many books we distribute

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UA Alumni Association Presents Awards



BETTINA LEHOVEC • THE MORNING NEWS

University of Arkansas Chancellor John White, left, poses with Julian Stewart and Stewart's grandson, J.T. Plummer, at the Arkansas Alumni Association awards banquet Friday night. Stewart received the Andrew J. Lucas Alumni Service Award.

TRADITIONAL BANQUET KICKS OFF HOMECOMING WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

By Bettina Lehovec

THE MORNING NEWS • BLEHOVEC@NWAONLINE.NET

FAYETTEVILLE — University of Arkansas alumni returning to their alma mater for homecoming weekend continued a rich tradition with the Arkansas Alumni Association Awards Banquet Friday night.

This was the 62nd year for the awards banquet. About 180 people attended, mingling inside the Janelle Y. Hembree Alumni House before dinner.

Ten people received awards. They included alumni, faculty members and the university track coach. Recipients were nominated by friends, families and colleagues and chosen by the alumni association board.

They share an appreciation for what the university has giv-

en them and a respect for what it continues to be.

"I grew up here," said Julian Stewart of San Antonio, Texas. "I love the place. I'm really, really proud of everything that we've accomplished. I don't think we've seen yet everything we're going to do."

Award recipients were:

• Julian Stewart, who received the Andrew J. Lucas Alumni Service Award for his continuing leadership role. Stewart served on the steering committee for the Campaign for the 21st Century. He is a member of the UA Foundation executive committee and chairman of the UA Board of Advisors.

Stewart graduated from the university in 1957.

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To report local stories or events, contact Features Editor Debbie Miller. Call 872-5029. E-mail: ourtown@nwaonline.net



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