

Meetings

Trocaire College sets Jan. 4 open house

Trocaire College, a private college in South Buffalo, will host an open house for interested students from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 4 on the campus, at 360 Choate Ave. Prospective students and their families are invited to get acquainted with Trocaire and its programs of study. Members of the faculty will be on hand to answer questions and discuss programs in business administration, medical assistant, nursing, computer network, and health information technology (medical records). Attendees can also learn more about Trocaire's new program in insurance professional studies, as well as information about the new Salvatore School of Hospitality Management. Representatives from all of Trocaire's more than two dozen programs in health care, business, education, and technology will be available to speak with prospective students about the specifics of their programs. For more information or to make reservations for the open house, call the Admissions Office at 827-2545 or visit www.trocaire.edu.

NU class to help boost memory, create success

Interested people can learn how to improve their memories and attain success in "Millionaire Memory," a class set for 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23 at Niagara University's Dunleavy Hall. Dave Farrow, the Guinness world record holder for greatest memory, will be the featured speaker. The class is sponsored by Niagara County Community College and Niagara University. For more information, call 614-6470.

Chamber session to offer updates on health plans

The Lancaster Chamber of Commerce will hold a workshop updating individuals on changes to their health insurance plans at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24 at the Lancaster Municipal Building, 5423 Broadway in Lancaster. For more information, call the Chamber of Commerce at 681-9755.

Sarah's Vintage and Estate Jewelry pieces 'are not run of the mill'

by **JESSICA L. FINCH**
Associate Editor

A stroll through Main Street in the Village of Williamsville wouldn't be complete without a stop into Sarah's Vintage and Estate Jewelry.

Located at 5459 Main St., at Los Robles, the shop features antique and costume pieces.

"I feel like I am the guardian of old pieces," owner Sarah Blawat said about selling someone's loved jewelry to a good home.

Many residents have sold their jewelry to Blawat for a variety of reasons, including owners whose families don't want to inherit the pieces.

"I am surprised by the number brought in to sell," she said. "A lot of very interesting jewelry came in."

Obtaining a degree from the Gemological Institute of America in California, Blawat said she was trained to determine the differences between stones. A graduate gemologist, Blawat has a full lab to evaluate the stones, metals and construction of the piece.

"I can determine what stones are. Before if the stone was blue it was a sapphire; red, a garnet," she said, adding that today the equipment available helps her understand antique jewelry.

"I guarantee everything I sell for quality," she said, noting that includes karatage and age.

As a member of the National Association of Jewelry Appraisers, Blawat is also certified to do formal insurance appraisals,

state appraisals and inheritance appraisals.

Pieces are also purchased from vendors from around the country. Sarah's Vintage and Estate Jewelry also searches for pieces requested by residents. Blawat said she keeps an ongoing list of requests and contacts the searcher when she comes across a piece.

She looks for a variety of pieces in price ranges that fit most everyone's budgets. Blawat also seeks pieces that the younger generation would want to wear.

"My hope was to have pieces young women, like in college, can find in their price range, while their mother can find the 2-carat ring she always wanted," she said adding that the selection can range from \$16 to \$16,000. "I want to bridge the generations."

Necklaces, bracelets, earrings, pins and rings are



These pieces of jewelry show the variety of classic and modern designs available at a range of prices.

among the selection of costume and antique jewelry, from the 1890s to 1970s, displayed in the store. Antique engagement rings with complementary wedding bands are also part of the merchandise.

"They are not your run-of-the-mill engagement rings. Some are 1920s platinum from \$900 to \$9,000," Blawat said.

There is also a selection of evening bags, perfume bottles and silver flatware.

Repairs are also done in-house, including sizing, soldering, changing stones and platinum repairs.

With 22 years of experience in antique jewelry buying and sell-



Sarah Blawat, owner of Sarah's Vintage and Estate Jewelry, displays the antique pieces available at her 5459 Main St. store.

Photo by John Rusac

ing, Blawat opened the Main Street location in August 2006. Prior to that, she had a location at Kelly's Antique Market in Clarence for 12 years and before that was in downtown Buffalo.

She chose to set up shop in Williamsville for its centralized location and accessibility to her client base that has been mainly East Amherst, Amherst and Williamsville. The 5459 Main St., location was a fit, she said.

Blawat grew up in the antique jewelry business — both her parents

worked in wholesale — and traveling the country to trade shows.

Now with her own business, Blawat has created a boutique-style shop in the heart of Williamsville. Joining her are Conrad Vout, a costume jewelry specialist, and Katie Segerson, sales manager and photographer.

Sarah's Vintage and Estate Jewelry is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, call 633-3738.

e-mail: jfinch@beenews.com

Waterford Bank to open doors in February Banker's 36-year dream realized

Waterford Village Bank, the first new community commercial bank chartered in Western New York in the past 70 years, received its state authorization and FDIC insurance approvals on Dec. 7, marking the "go-ahead" for the bank's board and local investors. The bank will officially open with a temporary, full-service branch at 8411 Main St. in early 2007.

Waterford Village Bank's successful capital campaign, which raised \$10 million, was completed earlier this month, with 90 percent of the bank's capital held by Buffalo area investors. The majority of the other 10 percent is held by Buffalo natives, some of whom now work or live in other areas of the United States, who had an interest in putting their investment to work in the Buffalo community.

"We are very grateful to the local community for their confidence in our ability to open a bank that seeks to enhance the lives of individuals and businesses in the communities that we serve," said Kathleen Kiesel Flemming, president and CEO of Waterford Village Bank. "Our commitment is to support area businesses and individuals who want to invest in our community."

"Our team believed there was a need for a new Buffalo area community bank owned by local investors," added Flemming. "We plan to focus on small businesses, families and professional sports athletes who desire the personal



Flemming

attention and special services that a bank like ours can offer. Benefits for customers are local ownership and management, short turnarounds on loan approvals, and an experienced staff that knows customers and the community.

In January, Concept Construction of Elma, will begin construction of a permanent 6,700-square-foot bank facility with three drive-through lanes and an ATM at 8411 Main St.

The building, designed by Flemming, will feature a brick and glass exterior and a clock tower on a 1.5-acre site and is expected to be completed by June. Silvestri Architects will assist on the project.