



**Steven McLaughlin and Maureen Lankes**

**Lankes - McLaughlin**

Kathleen Lankes of East Amherst and David Lankes of Getzville announce the engagement of their daughter, Maureen Lankes, to Steven McLaughlin, son of Yvonne McLaughlin of Tucson, Ariz., and the late John McLaughlin.

Miss Lankes graduated from Williamsville East High School in 1999. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in physical education/athletic training from Canisius College in 2003. She received a master's of education degree from Georgia State University in May 2007. She is a physical education teacher.

Her fiance graduated from Sahuaro High School, Tucson, in 1990. He received a degree in communications from the University of Arizona in 1995. He is self-employed in real estate in Atlanta, Ga.

A July 2007 wedding is planned.



**Jonathan M. Ferland and Barbara Radwan**

**Radwan - Ferland**

Barbara and John Radwan of West Seneca announce the engagement of their daughter, Lori A. Radwan, to Jonathan M. Ferland, son of Marcia Ferland of Athens, Ga., and the late Rene Ferland.

Miss Radwan is a 1997 graduate of West Seneca West High School. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications from the University at Buffalo in 2002. She received a Master of Science degree in college student personnel administration from Canisius College in 2005. She works at the Bank of America in West Seneca.

Her fiance graduated from Lockport High School in 2002 and studied liberal arts at Niagara County Community College. An Air Force reservist stationed at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Base, he served two deployments during Operation Iraqi Freedom - in Qatar in 2005 and Iraq in 2007. He is also a ramp agent for Jet-Blue Airlines in Cheektowaga.

A May 2008 wedding is planned.

**Bee Anniversaries**



**Mr. and Mrs. George Lukis**

**Celebration set for nature center**

Teresa and George Lukis of West Seneca will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary with family at the Beaver Hollow Conference Center, Java, N.Y.

George Lukis married the former Teresa Huber on June 21, 1947 in St. Agnes Church, Buffalo.

George is retired from Calspan Corp.

The couple are members of St. William's Parish, West Seneca.

They have nine children, 24 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.



**Mr. and Mrs. Ronald M. Schuler**

**Children honor parents on their 50th**

Marlene L. and Ronald M. Schuler of Cheektowaga will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary at a reception for family and friends given by their children at the Fairdale Banquet Center, Amherst.

Ronald M. Schuler married the former Marlene L. Harris on June 22, 1957 in St. Matthew's Church, Buffalo.

Ronald is co-owner of Bailey Maytag Heating and Air Conditioning. He is a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Cheektowaga.

Marlene is retired from after-school daycare at the YW-CA.

They enjoy vacationing in Las Vegas, Nev., and going to casinos.

The couple have three children, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



**Mr. and Mrs. James Morgan**

**Couple plan trip to Smoky Mts.**

Judith and James Morgan of Depew will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends in August followed by a trip to the Smoky Mountains.

James Morgan married the former Judith Whitehead on June 15, 1957 in Buffalo.

James is a retired New York State corrections officer.

Judith is a retired administrative assistant for the Board of Cooperative Educational Services' Harkness Center.

The couple have five sons and three grandchildren.

**Reception marks 60th anniversary**

Irene and Arthur Kubera of Cheektowaga celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a Mass at St. Gabriel Church, Elma, followed by a reception at Banquets by Adams in Cheektowaga.

Arthur Kubera married the former Irene Klawinski on June 17, 1947 in St. Luke's Church, Buffalo.

They are the retired co-owners of Art Kubera Music Store, Buffalo.

The couple have three children and four grandchildren.



**Timothy R. Sobkowiak and Bethany E. Pierce**

**Pierce - Sobkowiak**

Alice and James Pierce of Amherst announce the engagement of their daughter, Bethany E. Pierce, to Timothy R. Sobkowiak, son of Mary and Robert Sobkowiak of Tonawanda.

Miss Pierce is a 1997 graduate of Sweet Home High School, Amherst. She received a degree in history from Buffalo State College in 2003 and a master's degree in library science from the University at Buffalo in 2005. She is a state document librarian for the state of Arizona.

Her fiance is a 1998 graduate of Sweet Home and attended St. Bonaventure University. He is a debt management counselor in Scottsdale, Ariz., where the couple reside.

A March 2008 wedding is planned for Asbury at The Church, Buffalo.

**Travel industry has new environmental focus**

Environmentalism is nothing new. That it's front and center in nearly every industry, grabbing headlines, Hollywood and national news coverage daily, is new. I'd like to think my baby-boomer, hippie, '70s generation has had some say in putting this issue front and center. Perhaps there's some truth to it...rather the full circle of Woodstock...

No matter who takes credit though, environmental issues have far-reaching impact. Here are some examples gleaned from '07 travel publications.

In May 2008, IATA (International Air Transport Association, the international arm of air transport) will no longer accept paper tickets for payment processing. This will detach any existing interline (between airline) pricing arrangements that currently exist. That impact is not as great as one might think, as deregulation since the 1970s has unlinked the majority of these previously pervasive agreements. The greater impact will come in saved trees, not to mention time and fuels that drive the process.

At a recent IATA meeting, the world's airlines further pledged to improve their fuel efficiency an additional 25 percent by 2020 and set a goal of zero-emission aircraft within 50 years. They hope that using more direct routings and improved air traffic control systems can reduce fuel burn. It's interesting to note that today's aircraft fly the same distance with three times less fuel than was needed just 40 years ago. And since 1997, aircraft have become 20 percent more fuel-efficient. There's also the "Single European Sky" initiative, dovetailed into the European Union economic package, which is working to eliminate redundancies and feed the improved air traffic plan.

Enterprise Rent-a-Car is inking its contracts and in-flight magazine on recycled paper. Its fleet of cars includes low-emission vehicles and more than 3,000 gas/electric hybrids. The Cayman Tourist Board is implementing "sustainable tourism," and a recent Mexico Travel Market trade show highlighted efforts by that country for the same. Jamaica is promoting a "carbon-offsetting" program in conjunction with Hotel Mocking Bird Hill, an effort to balance environmental impact on carbon neutrality. Hol-



**CHRISTINE HICKS-USTA**  
Travel

land America has installed scrubbers on the Zaandam (to start) to lower the impact of fossil fuels burned to propel their vessels. NCL (Norwegian Cruise Line) has signed an eco-friendly agreement to change its in-port energy strategy when docked in Southern California. Costa Lines has implemented aluminum recycling aboard ships calling at Savona, Italy.

Management at Starwood Hotels announced plans to develop an eco-friendly hotel chain called 1. Delta Air Lines customers who purchase a ticket online can donate \$5.50 to the Conservation Fund, which plans to use most of that money to plant trees throughout the U.S. - another "carbon-offsetting" program. Continental is partnering with Sustainable Travel International in a similar move. Abercrombie & Kent plants a tree for every client traveling with them in 2007; this, on top of a second initiative called "Climate Change Challenge 2007," which plans to raise money to build awareness of environmental issues impinging on the travel industry.

Joni, I guess we finally listened: "I've come here to lose the smog...we are stardust, we are golden; we are billion-year-old carbon...and we've got to get ourselves back to the garden..."

(Christine Hicks-Usta has enjoyed more than 30 years of globe-trotting as a member of the travel industry in various capacities. Direct questions to her at Bee Group Newspapers, P.O. Box 150, Buffalo, NY 14231-0150.)

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