



Court Reporter Marie Polidoro and her niece at the

Goldilocks Trial

The Courterly

New FJD Probation Officers

Leaders and veterans welcome "POs" to the FJD force.

Photos by Bernadette Penn

By Jackie Browne — National Probation Parole Week was observed July 14, through July 18, 2008. The week is dedicated to the thousands of Probation-Parole employees throughout the continental United States and its territories. This year's theme was "Making Your Mark in the Community".

The Adult Probation-Parole Department planned a series of events to commemorate the week. The kick-off event took place on Monday, July 14th, when, in observance of the week, proclamations from the Governor and City Council were read, and Certificates of Service were awarded to the Probation Officer and Support employee who have the longest tenure with the Philadelphia Adult Probation Parole Department.

As in previous years, there was an Oath of Office ceremony for the 29 Probation-Parole Officers who were hired in the past year. Administrative Judge **D. Webster Keogh** administered the Oath Office to the new Probation-Parole Officers and President Judge C.



Darnell Jones II also provided remarks. The ceremony took place in Courtroom 653 City Hall on July 16th, 2008, and was followed by a cake reception at 1401 Arch Street for the Probation Officers, their invited guests, and other employees.

Committee Members were **Michael Briscoe, Janet McHale, Jillian Eidson, Tracey Scott, and Jackie Browne.** *More photos on page 8.*



Top: New Adult Probation Officers are sworn in during the ceremony at City Hall. (L-R) Keith Nigro, Charles Sabo, Ayonna Shabazz, Veronica Shelton. **Middle:** Veteran APPD leaders, Alison Bell, Marilyn Tyler, and John Dunn, gather together during the reception. **Bottom:** (L-R) Charles Hoyt, Joseph Glackin, Susan Broden



Joe Martucci gets Best-Dressed medal from Chanelle Jones.

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Exchange Students Visit CJC

A group of 8th Grade Italian exchange students visited our country from May 9th through May 21st. The trip was in conjunction with an exchange program between the Masterman School and the International School of Trieste in Italy (just outside of Venice). As part of the exchange program, 15 eighth graders from Masterman were selected based on academic achievements to spend 10 days in Trieste in April, staying in the homes of the various families of the selected students there. In return, 20 Italian students came to live with the families of the selected Masterman students. (The son of Judge

Sheila Woods-Skipper was one of the participants and she hosted 2 Italian students).

The International School of Trieste was founded through the joint initiative of the International Center for Theoretical Physics and the Italo-American Association in 1964. It is a not-for-profit, English language school for day students of all nationalities, accredited by the Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges. The student population has over 300 students and provides education from early childhood through high school. The school's director is Jim Pastore. Here in Philadelphia, Masterman is the city's elite public magnet middle and high school for ac-



demically gifted students.

The website for the Trieste School: www.istrieset.org

Above, Judge Sheila Woods-Skipper with some of the 20 visiting Italian students.

Best of the FJD

The 2008 FJD Employee Appreciation Day made for some pre-Olympic-medal ceremonies and a lot of happy faces all around.



FJD Hosts Mock Trial Competition



Above, President Judge C. Darnell Jones, II, seated in front of Overbrook High School's state championship mock trial winners. With their coach, Phillip Beauchemin (left). The champions are backed up by FJD jurists (l-r) Judge Mark I. Bernstein, Administrative Judge D. Webster Keogh, Judge George W. Overton, Administrative Judge M. Kevin Dougherty, Judge John M. Younge, Judge Nitza I. Quinones-Alejandro, and Judge Jacqueline F. Allen.

The 2008 Overbrook High School Mock Trial Team won the Philadelphia Public League Championship, Philadelphia City Championship, the Pennsylvania State Championship, and ranked 15th at the National Championships in Wilmington, Delaware. Over the last 12 years, Overbrook teams have won 8 Public League Championships, 5 Philadelphia City-wide, and 3 Pennsylvania State Championships.

Like many neighborhood schools, Overbrook suffers from all the usual maladies of contemporary urban education. Nonetheless, we have repeatedly demonstrated the potential of inner-city students when given the opportunity to compete with their counterparts from elite high schools all over the state and country, as well as here in Philly. The repeated success of these bright, hard-working students is the product

of many contributions by the dedicated and supportive principal, Ms. Ethelyn Young, and the administration and staff with continuing help from many former team members who are now law students or attorneys.

Two other groups deserve recognition: first, the Pennsylvania and Philadelphia Bar Associations who work tirelessly every year to create this competition. Lawyers Roberta West, David Trevasakis, Jane Meyer, Bill Higgins, and Janell Klein (to name a few) have been selfless and devoted in their efforts for many years.

Second, the Philadelphia Court has time after time offered the encouragement and recognition that these students so much need to validate their unique efforts. On numerous occasions for many years, Philadelphia judges and court

officials have invited Overbrook's team to various functions where their achievements are enthusiastically applauded. More importantly, the Philadelphia Court has provided many living examples of personal success achieved by people from circumstances similar to our students. Most of our students don't have the opportunity to actually meet professionals from backgrounds like their own and especially in a social setting that implies their inclusion as future peers. This has proven to be an enormously motivating experience.

This article was submitted by Phillip Beauchemin, the Mock Trial team coach for the last 15 years, baseball team coach for 19 years, and a social studies and law teacher at Overbrook High School. The school district could use more like him.

Goldilocks & Big Bad Wolf Go to Trial



Among the Law Day and Week programming done by the Philadelphia Bar Association and the First Judicial District, is the outreach program for early education students in the “Goldilocks Program” launched in 2006 by the Honorable Annette M. Rizzo. The program provides an exciting opportunity for young citizens to serve as jurors in cases fully-litigated by Bar members.

The FJD played host to about 180 children from 4 schools: Episcopal Academy, Independence Charter School, McCall School, and Trinity Pre-School. The students ranged from 4 to 7 years of age. They were served subpoenas to appear for jury service and greeted by President C. Darnell Jones II, Trial Division Administrative Judge Keogh, and Jury Commissioner Roger Gordon. A true highlight was the featured speaker, our own Mayor Nutter who spoke on the

value of public service.

After photo opportunities with presiding judges and the Mayor, court officers escorted the jurors to their respective courtrooms. Three juries heard the case of Commonwealth v. Goldilocks with one jury hearing the case of Commonwealth v. B.B. Wolf a/k/a Big Bad Wolf. FJD employees took on various character roles.

After deliberations in every courtroom, varied verdicts were reported out; from acquittal on all charges, to acquittal on less than all charges, to findings of guilt on all charges.

Lunch followed for the hard working jurors after which some classes had a tour of historic City Hall. It was a wonderful introduction to the judicial process.

In 2008, under the leadership of Scott

Sigman, Esq., Chair of the Young Lawyers Section of the Philadelphia Bar Association and Heather Harrington, Esq., Chair of the Law Day Committee of the Young Lawyers’ Section, many young lawyers supported our program by serving as trial counsel in the cases or as various witnesses. They did a fantastic job. FJD leaders and employees look forward to continued collaboration with the Young Lawyers’ Section. A special round of thanks goes out to President Judge Jones, Administrative Judge D. Webster Keogh, Supervising Judge Esther R. Sylvester as well as members of the FJD administrative staff. In addition, a former law clerk of the FJD, Tara Nalencz, Esq. should be credited for all her hard work in drafting the trial scripts!

READS Needs You, FJD Volunteers



Above left, Elsie Dove; **above right**, Jackie Courtney. **Below right**, the principal and one of her courteous and engaging students.

Earlier this summer, some FJD READS volunteers visited the student's school instead of the kids coming to City Hall. The school principal showed us that her courteous and engaging students were models for the future of Philadelphia. READS helps them reach their goals.

The Philadelphia READS Program needs approximately 60 volunteers to coach young readers (grades 1-3) from October 2008 through May 2009 at the Criminal Justice Center (CJC) and City Hall (CH). Commit one hour a week to help a child excel in reading. The CJC reading program will be held on Tuesdays at 12-1 PM in the 12th Floor Dining Room. The other reading program will be held on Wednesdays at 12:30-1:30 PM in City Hall Room 380. FJD employees interested in participating in the reading program at the CJC should contact READS Coordinator Carey Widman

at Carey.Widman@Courts.Phila.gov. FJD employees interested in participating in the reading program at City Hall should contact READS Coordinator Linda Williams via email at Linda.Williams@Courts.Phila.gov. Please include the following information in your email to Carey or Linda:

Employee Name, Department, Telephone Number, Email Address, Training preferred (Whether you want training Y/N).

Training for new coaches will be held on September 23, 2008, at 12-1 PM, in the 12th Floor Judicial Dining Room of the CJC. FJD employees interested in the reading coach training should contact Carey.Widman@Courts.Phila.gov.

With your help we will make Philadelphia a city of readers!

More photos on page 11.



The 2008-2009 READS program is dedicated to the memory of Coach Alisa Gibbs for her caring and commitment to her students over the years. She will be missed.

Strategic Anti-Violence Unit Graduation



(L-R): Joe Davis, PO Jill Eidson, Tyrone Freeman, Gerald Campbell, Jerry Edwards, Maurice Dixon, David Thompson, Derrick Newton, Dr. Ron Noble, PO Carrinnia Woodson. (Not pictured: Graduate Michael Johnson).

By: PO Jillian Eidson

The Strategic Anti-Violence Unit (SAV-U) of the Adult Probation and Parole Department is pleased to announce the graduation of its inaugural Life Skills and New Thinking class participants attended on April 30th, 2008. The graduates were honored at a ceremony attended by Division Director Kevin Reynolds and the course facilitators.

This twelve-week course offered by the Department utilizes cognitive behavioral therapy, an intervention clinically proven in dozens of studies to reduce the risk of recidivism. Components of the course include goal setting, new thinking, choices and consequences, undertaking a

successful job search, continuing education, anger management, effectively dealing with stressful situations, and perse-



Grads Tyrone Freeman, Gerald Campbell, Jerry Edwards, Maurice Dixon, David Thompson, and Derrick Newton.

verance in the face of adversity. The course was developed with researchers and practitioners from the University of Pennsylvania, a leading pioneer in the use of cognitive behavioral therapy.

The program is currently in its pilot phase. Once we are able to demonstrate its effectiveness in a clinical trial we will offer the course to as many high risk offenders as resources will allow. We are excited about the prospect adding a tool that the Department can use to proactively reduce violent recidivism by our population. We plan to offer the course for a second time in the fall and hope to begin the clinical trial with the third class in January of 2009.

We again congratulate the parolees and probationers completing the course and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

Blood Drive Another Huge Success

Because of the efforts of your FJD co-workers who donated their time and talent, 98 people came to give and 82 pints of life-saving blood were donated. Each pint can help three patients, so **246** hospital patients may benefit from our FJD drive. The employees who came to donate deserve our thanks. The Blood Drive Captains, listed below, deserve special recognition.

In particular, Teresa McNeal and Lee W. Swiacki took care of the schedule and worked at the registration desk helping others from before 7 AM until after the drive closed at 5 PM. This is a dedicated group of volunteers, some of whom have worked the Drive since it began on September 11, 2001.

Every year, the men from Space and Facilities come at 6 AM to set up the room and organize the area.

Helping out as usual were:

Diana Martin,
Elizabeth Saravello,
Stanley Chmielewski,
Cereta Diggs,
Michael Kilgallon,
Edward Rementer,
Margaret Donapel,
Lee W. Swiacki,
Teresa McNeal,
Gloria Woodard,
Jacqueline Browne,
Karen Leone,
Russell Micciche,
Nancy Pollis,
Winifred Gilmore,
Jeffrey Travelina, and
Len Hacking (Chair).



Above, young J. Ramsey, a cancer patient helped by blood donations; maybe yours.

Senator Learns About FJD Foreclosure Plan

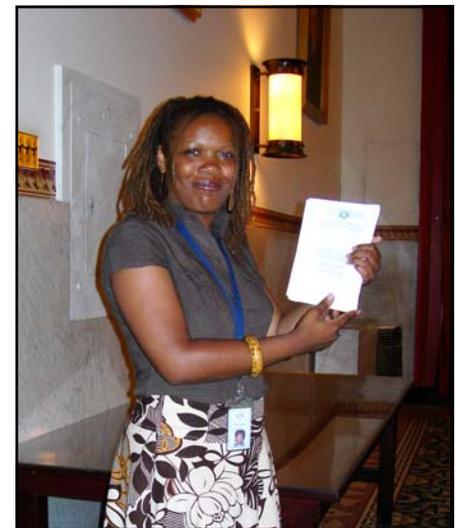
Senator Robert P. Casey visited the FJD a few weeks ago at the invitation of President Judge C. Darnell Jones II. While here, he met with Judge Annette M. Rizzo; Court Administrator Dave Lawrence; housing advocates; representatives from the city, credit counselors, and volunteer lawyers; and one of the people whose home was saved. In an emotionally charged speech, the lady thanked all those who had helped her. The program works with volunteer lawyers helping to get homeowners together with credit counselors and lenders to work out arrangements as alternatives to foreclosure.



Above left, Senior Citizen Ms. Jean Ruffin who praised the effort that helped her to keep her home. Above right, Senator Robert P. Casey with Judge Rizzo (foreground), President Judge Jones, and Court Administrator Dave Lawrence, addresses the various stakeholders.

New POs Welcomed

Photos by Bernadette Penn, APPD



Top (L-R) Nancy Capuano, Melvin Charlton, Tifftrany Chavous, Lauren Devlin, Michael Malkowski. **Above Right:** Lauren Devlin, Michael Malkowski.

Top: Amy Boice and parents. **Middle** (L-R): Darlene Miller, Angela McCabe, Arthur Campbell. **Bottom:** Tracey Scott.



Far Left (L-R): Joseph Lanzalotti, Robert Malvestuto. **Left** (L-R): Anna Veasey, Michael Pancoast, Mo DeLisi.

Summer Law Interns Feted

On July 8, 2008, a luncheon celebration became the culminating activity for the FJD Summer Intern Program. The Program is coordinated by Judge Lillian Harris Ransom with the able assistance of her staff. This year, the court hosted approximately 100 student interns. A number of FJD judges accompanied their interns to the event and President Judge C. Darnell Jones II offered remarks. Most of the students were enrolled in law school, although some were from local colleges and there were a few high school students as well. The interns were treated to lunch by the FJD and each student was presented with a Certificate of Participation along with a gift bag. During the summer, the 32 judges who served as their mentors provided the students with opportunities to participate in more than 20 extracurricular fieldtrips and lectures designed to enhance their courtroom and writing experience.



Above: (L-R) Monique Thomas, Lorraine S. Moore, Judge Ransom, Linda Mingo, and Jennifer Tuck. **Immediately Below,** student interns enjoying the lunch and each other's company.



Left: (L-R) Judges Idee C. Fox and Matthew D.Carrafiello. **Right:** Judge Albert John Snite. **Far Right:** Jennifer Tuck and a student intern.



Retirements

From April 1, 2008 through August 3, 2008

Name, Position, Retirement Date, and Years of Service

Finney, Aaron	Probation Off. V	04/04/08	36
Laganella, Marie T	Clerk Mssgr II	04/07/08	8
Lewis, Richard S	P/T Warrant Sup 2	04/07/08	33
Toner, Catherine M	Fiscal Tech 1	04/07/08	35
Adams, Christopher	Progrmr Analyst 1	04/30/08	23
Barry, William A	Programmer Mgr	05/01/08	31
Fitzsimmons, Peter J	Court Adm Ofcr 1	05/02/08	28
Jones, James A	Tipstaff 2	05/02/08	12
McCrosen Jr., John	Tipstaff 1	05/02/08	36
Sweeney, Margaret E	Clerk Typist I	05/09/08	5
Durham, Helen L	Child Care Aide	05/16/08	23
Fields, Gerald W	Probation Ofcr 2	05/30/08	31
Petner, James R	Tipstaff 2	05/30/08	36
Reibel, Michelle M	Probation Ofcr 2	06/03/08	36
Thomas, Lydia E	Court Reporter	06/03/08	5
Lanzalotti, Joseph A	Director 2	06/16/08	39
Jamison, Michael R	Probation Ofcr 2	06/17/08	18
Lutes, Patricia J	Legal Clerk 2	06/27/08	21
Steinmetz III, Harry J	Tipstaff 2	06/30/08	20
Thomas, Elaine	Judicial Secy 2	06/30/08	23
Frangos, Kathleen R	Court Adm Ofcr 2	07/01/08	33
Maglio, Patricia A	Senior Hearing Off.	07/01/08	28
Byrne, Gail	Court Represen 2	07/18/08	19
Rania, John P	Tipstaff 2	07/18/08	21
Bilinski, Alexander N	Probation Ofcr 2	07/25/08	24
Martin, Geraldine I	Court Represen 2	07/25/08	38
Belli, John M	Law Clerk 2	07/31/08	25

Anniversaries 20+

From April 1, 2008 through August 3, 2008

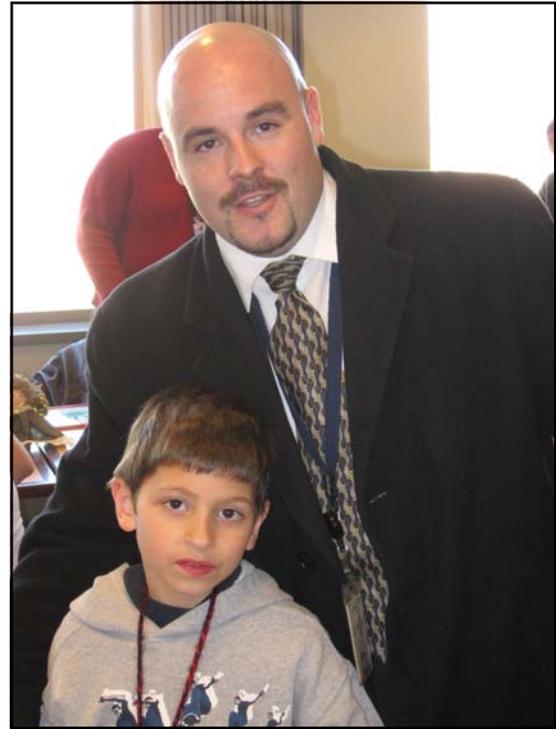
Name, Position, and Years of Service

Cunningham, Robert	Adult Probation	Probation Off. V	35
Demonte, Theodora F	DR Child Support	Legal Clerk 2	35
DiRosa, Joseph J	Civil Administration	Court Adm Ofcr 3	35
Gentile, Nicholas P	Building/Facilities	Bldg Main Sup 1	35
Rementer Jr, Edward	Administrative Services	Director 2	35
Serinsky, Jean K	Juvenile	Probation Ofcr 4	35
Dixon, Eva M	Human Resources	Court Adm Ofcr 3	30
Donapel, Margaret	Procurement	Procuremnt Tech 4	30
Ferguson Jr, Leonard	Family Court	Probation Ofcr 2	30
Hiltwine, William J	DR Child Support	Fiscal Tech 2	30
Mattia, Barbara A	DR Child Support	Court Represen 2	30
Mattia, Richard M	Building/Facilities	Mainten. Foreman	30
Rodriguez, Miriam I	DR Child Support	Legal Clerk 2	30
Williams, James G	Juvenile	Probation Ofcr 4	30
Bova, John	General TC	Cust Work Sup 2	25
Chambers III, Roy C	DR Child Support	Director 2	25
Henigan, Joseph B	General Tipstaff	Tipstaff 1 (Gen)	25
McNevin, Lisa	Active Criminal Records	Court Adm Ofcr 3	25
Saulsby-Brawley, M.	DR Child Support	Legal Clerk 2	25
Bradley, Daryl W	Family Court	Probation Ofcr 2	20
Citrino, Kenneth C	Judge Mazzola	Law Clerk 2	20
Dean, Vittoria	Pretrial Services	Court Rep. 2	20
DeJohn, Francis	Juvenile	Admin Tech 3	20
Fenerty, Margaret M	General TC	Court Adm Ofcr 5	20
Fisher, Rhonda Y	Juvenile	Legal Clerk 1	20
Gallagher, John A	Pretrial Services	Court Adm Ofcr 4	20
Garayua, Iris	General Tipstaff	Interpreter 2	20
Harrison, James A	General Tipstaff	Tipstaff 2 (Gen)	20
Jordan, Carol	DR Child Support	Legal Clerk 1	20
Keitt Streeter, Edith	Judge Lewis	Tipstaff 2 (Jud)	20
Kenny, Thomas E	DR	Psychologist	20
Mackara, John F	General Tipstaff	Tipstaff 1 (Gen)	20
Marrone, Rosemarie	DR Child Support	Court Adm Ofcr 3	20
Mayer, Adele	Active Criminal Records	Legal Clerk 2	20
Melton, Mitchell W	General Tipstaff	Tipstaff 2 (Gen)	20
Murray, James	DR Child Support	Legal Clerk 1	20
Paris, Kathleen O	Judge King	Judicial Secy 2	20
Pirillo, Sherry R	Judge Mazzola	Judicial Secy 2	20
Richardson, Barbara	Juvenile	Probation Ofcr 3	20
Rullo, William	Procurement	Procuremnt Tech 4	20
Sanuck, Michael J	Active Criminal Records	Court Adm Ofcr 4	20
Stankiewicz, Vincent	Juvenile	Probation Ofcr 2	20
Vargas, Alma I	General Tipstaff	Interpreter 2	20
Vazquez, Cecilia	Pretrial Services	Court Represen 2	20
Walker, John A	Judge Rau	Tipstaff 2 (Jud)	20
Walker, Lydia R	DR Child Support	Sr Hearing Officer	20
Williams, Robin	Adult Probation	Probation Ofcr 1	20
Williams,Tracey	Judge Lewis	Judicial Secy 2	20



READS Program Photos

Clockwise, starting at top right: Coach Matthew Market and Domingo Fugarino; Coach Erin Loucks and Marcia De-Silva; students Conti Chambers and Vincent Edwards; Coach Israel Morales with Leon Seng; Coach Mary Politano with Ailasha Cooper; and Coach Marisol Morales with Anthony Lomax.



HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHO TO MARRY? (written by kids)

HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHO TO MARRY?

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming. -- Alan, age 10

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. -- Kristen, age 10

WHAT IS THE RIGHT AGE TO GET MARRIED?

Twenty-three is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then. -- Camille, age 10

HOW CAN A STRANGER TELL IF TWO PEOPLE ARE MARRIED?

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids. -- Derrick, age 8

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR MOM AND DAD HAVE IN COMMON?

Both don't want any more kids. -- Lori, age 8

WHAT DO MOST PEOPLE DO ON A DATE?

On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date. -- Martin, age 10

WHAT WOULD YOU DO ON A FIRST DATE THAT WAS TURNING SOUR?

I'd run home and play dead. The next day I would call all the newspapers and make sure they wrote about me in all the dead columns. -- Craig, age 9

WHEN IS IT OKAY TO KISS SOMEONE?

When they're rich. -- Pam, age 7

The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that. -- Curt, age 7

IS IT BETTER TO BE SINGLE OR MARRIED?

It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them. -- Anita, age 9

HOW WOULD THE WORLD BE DIFFERENT IF PEOPLE DIDN'T GET MARRIED?

There sure would be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there?

-- Kelvin, age 8

HOW WOULD YOU MAKE A MARRIAGE WORK?

Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a truck.

-- Ricky, age 10

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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E-Filing Opens

The landmark FJD Civil E-Filing project officially opened on August 4th. It took years of planning and hard work, but is expected to improve court operations and open access to justice in Philadelphia.

In the next issue of the Courterly, we'll show who among your co-workers brought about this remarkable achievement.



Kevin Daly, of the Prothonotary, takes the first e-filing at 5:40 AM on August 4, 2008.