



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

(From left) Eileen Waterhouse, Carl Lonoble Lebman, and Dale Waterhouse Dec. 1 embrace as the names of people who have died of AIDS are read at the conclusion of the 'Hold Back the Night' candlelight walk held at the Liberty Pole in downtown Rochester.

World AIDS Day marked by two candlelight vigils

World AIDS Day (Dec. 1) was marked around Rochester with several services and fundraisers to promote awareness of the disease. The day began with a proclamation of World AIDS Day by Rochester-area dignitaries. The ceremony was held in the Curtis Theater at the George Eastman House. Events continued throughout the day with a sale of red ribbons at Strong Memorial Hospital; an open house at Community Health Network on South

Avenue; and a program titled, 'Make a Joyful Noise,' which included bell ringing and singing at area churches. The day concluded with a candlelight walk and service at the University of Rochester. Another candlelight walk, 'Hold Back the Night,' which processed from the George Eastman House to the Liberty Pole in downtown Rochester, was sponsored by Helping People with AIDS and the Rochester Task Force on AIDS.



Wendy Longlade/Photo intern
Valeri Profit-Lanzoni and her husband, Matthew, listen to AIDS victims' names read at the Liberty Pole.

Activist decries Guatemalan elite

Worried that war will renew

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

GREECE — According to the Guatemalan press, Randall Shea, and others of his ilk, may be cocaine dealers, marijuana-abusers, and — worst of all — international terrorists.

Shea, however, maintains that he and his fellow non-Guatemalan activists are none of these. Rather, he asserts that the pro-government press wants to smear the efforts by him and thousands of others who work with the Guatemalan poor — efforts that threaten Guatemalan rulers' vision for their country.

"There's a saying that you don't need to carry a gun in Guatemala to be a subversive — you only have to want a better standard of living for your children," Shea said last Saturday morning, Dec. 3, in an interview from his family's home in Greece.

The pro-government press heaped abuse on foreign activists in Guatemala when they helped thousands of refugees living in southern Mexico return to their

former Guatemalan villages in 1993-94, Shea said. More than 400 Indian villages in the western highlands were wiped off the map during army sweeps to root out leftist guerrillas in the early 1980s, according to Shea and other sources, and those who survived escaped to Mexico, he said.

A 37-year-old Greece native, Shea grew up as a member of St. John the Evangelist Parish, 2400 Ridge Road W. He has lived in Central America since the late 1980s, first in Nicaragua, and then in Guatemala, where he recently completed working with returning refugees.

Shea worked with the refugees as an employee of Witness For Peace, an ecumenical organization dedicated to changing U.S. policy toward Central America.

A U.S. Army veteran and former international auditor for a multinational company, the peace activist now embraces liberation theology, which compels the church to side with the poor and see the world through their eyes.

Shea noted that his conversion to liberation theology began when he traveled to Nicaragua in the late 1980s and saw the results of the U.S.-backed contra war against the leftist Sandinista gov-

ernment.

"The average person's perception was that the contras were fighting an evil, Soviet-backed regime," he said.

But, as Shea saw it, the Sandinistas were the only Latin American government seriously tackling the problems facing the region's poor, including a lack of health care, education and land.

He also became disenchanted with the contras when rural villagers told him that many of the rebels' attacks were directed against such civilian workers as teachers and doctors.

Shea feels a similar antipathy toward the Guatemalan government and its army, which Shea said serve to protect the economic interests of two percent of the nation's people who own two-thirds of the nation's land.

He noted that Nicaragua's revolution in the 1980s frightened Guatemala's upper class and fear of the revolution's duplication in Guatemala has driven the government's highly repressive war against the guerrillas. The war has severely hit the country's civilian population, 60 percent of which belongs to 22 Indian groups.

"I think (the rich) realize that the situation is unjust and that if they give a lit-

Continued on page 4

Knights of Columbus conduct two banquets

The Knights of Columbus held two banquets in October to honor members and supporters.

A "Religious Appreciation Night" took place at the Hornell Knights of Columbus No. 243 Hall, 251 Main St., Hornell. The event honored pastors, deacons and women religious from Steuben County parishes. Each received certificates of appreciation signed by Robert J. Fallon, state deputy of the N.Y. State Council Knights of Columbus.

In addition to the Hornell banquet, pastors from Monroe County attended a testimonial dinner for Walter J. DeRouen, longtime Grand Knight of Rochester Council No. 178. That banquet took place at the council's hall, 670 Thurston Road, Rochester. DeRouen now serves as district deputy for New York State Council Knights of Columbus District 100, which includes parts of Rochester, Gates and Henrietta.

DeRouen was instrumental in establishing councils at St. Jude's, Gates and at Rochester's St. Philip Neri and St. Ann's churches.

St. Joseph's Villa seeks "St. Nick" volunteers

GREECE — St. Joseph's Villa, 3300 Dewey Ave., is requesting volunteers to be "St. Nicks" for the holidays.

The St. Nick program provides Villa residents with gift items such as clothing, sports equipment and board games; as well as food baskets for families served by the Villa's Preventive Services program.

St. Nick participants can be individuals, businesses, churches and other community groups.

In addition, the Villa recently embarked upon its annual fund drive. The appeal, which runs through the spring, has set a goal of \$50,000.

For information on the St. Nick program, call 716/865-1550, ext. 284. Contributions to the Villa's fund drive may be mailed to the Development Office, St. Joseph's Villa of Rochester, 3300 Dewey Ave., Rochester, N.Y., 14616.

St. Joseph's Villa is a non-profit agency which provides mental-health and supportive services to youth and their families.

CFC support group aids women abused as girls

ROCHESTER — Catholic Family Center is accepting referrals for a therapy group attempting to help adult women survivors of childhood physical and emotional abuse and/or neglect.

Already in session and looking to add new members, the group will meet on Tuesdays from 6 to 8 p.m. at CFC's downtown office, located on the seventh floor of the Sibley Tower Building, 25 Franklin St. Contact Patrice Gregorek, CSW, 716/262-7111, or Nan Pokalsky, CSW, 262-7114, for information.

S.T. Catholic Charities seeks infant car seats

ELMIRA — Catholic Charities of the Southern Tier is requesting donations of infant and toddler car seats.

Those people with such seats to donate should call 607/734-9784 or drop them off at Catholic Charities' Emergency Services office at 126 Lake St., from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday through Friday.