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Bible

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reaction is going to be positive or negative. I'm concerned only that we approach truth as deeply as we can."

There's another reason he believes in the importance of not reading the Gospel of John literally: there are messages in the symbolism that impact

the way Christians and Jews can relate today.

In the Gospel of John, there is no story of the birth of Jesus and his mother, never referenced as Mary, appears only twice — once at the wedding in Cana when she tells her son that there is no more wine, and again at the foot of the cross when she cradles his dead body.

In both instances, Spong said, she appears to be a transitional figure between Judaism and

Christianity.

"John is the only one who puts Mary and the Beloved Disciple together at the foot of the cross. He has them commend each other to each other," he said. "I think he's saying to the Beloved Disciple, 'You've got to recognize that Judaism is your mother. You've got to own her and care for her.' And he's saying to Mary, 'You've got to recognize that Christianity is your child.'"

That vision, according to the bishop, differs significantly from how the Jewish-Christian relationship has unfolded through the centuries.

Crucifixion as climax

In another talk in the five-part lecture series, on Jan. 25, Spong will address "The Climax of the Fourth Gospel: It's the Crucifixion, Not the Resurrection."

"The place where John

sees the divinity in Jesus is his capacity to give his life away. It's the crucifixion," Spong said. "It's not in his capacity to live happily ever after, which is the ending we tend to put on the story."

Spong's next book — "Biblical Literalism: A Gentle Heresy" — is scheduled for release in 2016.

He has been a visiting lecturer at Harvard University as well as at other universities and churches

across the globe, according to his website.

His media appearances include a profile segment on "60 Minutes," "Good Morning America," "Politically Incorrect," "Larry King Live," and more.

Spong and Christine, his wife of 25 years, have five children and six grandchildren.

Lorraine Ash: 973-428-6660; lash@njpressmedia.com

obituaries

Death Notices

Citro, Jr., Alfred Roxbury Township; Davis & Hepplewhite Funeral Home

Crimi, Theresa Totowa; Gaita Memorial Home

Gutjahr, Robert Morristown; Doyle Funeral Home

Haarsgaard, Elizabeth "Betty" Mendham; Bailey Funeral Home

Lake, Barbara formerly of Florham Park; Madison Memorial Home

Lopez, Rosemary Morris Plains; Dangler Funeral Home

Mondello, Jr., Timothy Hope; Morgan Funeral Home

Morrissey, Robert Queensbury, NY; Regan Denny Stafford Funeral Home

Oefelein, Joseph Succasunna; Davis & Hepplewhite Funeral Home

Wrede, Patricia Ironia; Tuttle Funeral Home

ROBERT GUTJAHR AGE: 89 • MORRISTOWN

Robert George Gutjahr, formerly of Morristown, passed away on Saturday, 20 December 2014 at in San Antonio, TX. He was 89. Born in Jersey City on January 1, 1925 to the late Herman and Daisy (Williams) Gutjahr, Mr. Gutjahr grew up in Morristown and graduated from Morristown High School in 1943. He was a Combat Engineer in the United States Army during World War II and was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds sustained in the European Theater of Operations. After the war, Mr. Gutjahr worked for Westinghouse and Meppco Electra Corporation in Morristown until his retirement. He resided in Washington, NJ for over 50 years before moving to Wharton and then San Antonio, TX, where he spent the last year of his life.

Devoted husband to Irene

(Lamb) Gutjahr; loving father of Robert Gerald Gutjahr and spouse Ellen Beck of Frederick, MD, Susan Gale Gutjahr of San Antonio and Tamala Joy (Gutjahr) Mikail and her spouse David Mikail of Boonton. Doting grandfather to David Hendrix, Hannah Gutjahr and Joshua Gutjahr. Loving brother of John Gordon Gutjahr and his spouse Ann Marie of Whippany and Uncle to their sons, J. Gordon Gutjahr, C. Glenn Gutjahr, T. Gary Gutjahr, and M. Gregory Gutjahr, all of whom still reside in Morris County.

Funeral service at St Peter's Episcopal Church, Morristown at 1:00 PM on Monday, 29 December. Mr. Gutjahr will be laid to rest immediately following at Evergreen Cemetery in Morristown.

TIMOTHY M. MONDELLO, JR. AGE: 84 • HOPE

Timothy M. Mondello, Jr. died on Wednesday, December 24, 2014 at Karen Ann Quinlan Home for Hospice in Fredon. He was 84. Born in Budd Lake, he was a lifelong resident before moving to Belvidere last year.

He served in the Army during the Korean War. Mr. Mondello worked at Picatinny Arsenal as a truck driver for 36 years retiring in 1995. He was a parishioner of St. Michael's Church in Netcong, a Past Commander of the VFW of Netcong, a member of the American Legion in Stanhope and the Mt. Olive Senior Citizens club.

He is survived by his wife, Setsu of 61 years, three daughters: Mary Cervencik (& Joseph) of Mt. Bethel, PA, Helena Brownbridge of Hackettstown, NJ, and Deborah Ritter (& Paul) of

Columbia, NJ; six grandchildren: Adam, Aaron and Amanda Brownbridge, and Stefanie, Alyssa and Jessica Ritter; and two great-grandchildren: Noah Sweger and Aidan Brownbridge.

A funeral mass will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 30, at 10:00 AM at St. Michael's Church, 4 Church St, Netcong. Interment will follow at Stanhope Union Cemetery. Visiting hours will be held on Monday from 2 - 4 & 6 - 8 PM at the Morgan Funeral Home, 31 Main St, Netcong.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Mr. Mondello's name to: Karen Ann Quinlan Home for Hospice, 99 Sparta Ave, Newton NJ 07860. Condolences may be sent to: www.NetcongFuneral.com

BARBARA E. LAKE AGE: 87 • FORMERLY OF FLORHAM PARK

Barbara E. Lake, of Vero Beach Fla., formerly of Florham Park, died on December 17, 2014 at the Indian River Medical Center in Vero Beach Florida, she was 87 years old. Mrs. Lake was born in Glen Ridge and lived in Caldwell Township, Florham Park and the last 10 years in Vero Beach. She retired as the bank manager of Trust Company of Morris County in Florham Park and Morristown. She had also worked for Bloomfield Savings and Montclair Trust many years ago. She was the book keeper for the Captains Galley in Madison for 28 years. Barbara was a graduate of Penn Hall College in Chambersburg Pa. She was an avid golfer and won various club championships over the years.

She is predeceased by her husband Oakley R. Lake and is survived by her sons, Rob-

ert J. Lake and Jack Lake, 2 grandsons, Jonathan and Nicholas.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend the funeral mass Monday, December 29, at 11am at Christ the King Church, New Vernon with interment to follow at the Restland Memorial Park, East Hanover. Visitation Sunday from 2-5pm at the Madison Memorial Home, 159 Main St., Madison. In lieu of flowers donations to the Florham Park First Aid Squad, St. Jude Childrens Hospital, Wounded Warriors Project, Florham Park and Madison PBA, Central Jersey Cancer Research, in her memory would be appreciated. Robert Lake would like to thank Dr. Michelle S. Maholtz and Staff of Vero Beach for their dedication and professionalism towards Barbara.

ROSEMARY LOPEZ AGE: 76 • MORRIS PLAINS

Rosemary (nee Donnelly) Lopez, 76, Of Morris Plains, N.J. passed away on Friday, December 26, 2014 at Morristown Medical Center. Born in New York City, she lived in the Bronx before making her home in Morris Plains, in 1961. Rosemary was in the accounting Department of General Chemical in Morristown. She served as a Councilwoman in Morris Plains from 1985 until 1996. She also served on the Board of Adjustment, and as a CCD Teacher and a Den Mother for Cub Scouts.

Rosemary is survived by her loving husband of 58 years, Ralph Lopez; her devoted children, Morris Plains residents, Sharon and her husband Gene McDonald, Ralph M and his wife Mary Sharon (Goodwin), Denise and her husband Scott Robinsky and Donna Lopez. Rosemary is also survived by her cherished grandchildren, Stephanie, John and Christopher McDonald, Tara, Michael and

Matthew Lopez, Amy and Danny Robinsky and Hannah Wilmers. Loving Aunt to Lisa Tims and her sons, Kevin, Nicholas and Alex as well as many dear friends. She was predeceased by her mother Helen Donnelly and her sisters Eileen and Catherine. Rosemary and Ralph loved Cruising with their family and vacationing with their close friends.

Visiting will be on Sunday, December 28, 2014 at Dangler Funeral Home, 600 Speedwell Avenue, Morris Plains from 4 until 8 PM. Funeral Mass will be held on Monday, December 29, 2014 at St. Virgil's Church, Speedwell & West Hanover Avenue, Morris Plains at 10:00 AM. Interment will follow at Restland Memorial Park in East Hanover, N.J. In lieu of flowers, donations in her name can be made to Morris Minute Men, PO Box 192, Morris Plains, N.J. 07950 or American Cancer Society or National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

JOSEPH C. OEFELEIN AGE: 85 • SUCCASUNNA

Joseph Oefelein passed away peacefully on December 24, 2014 from a short illness. He was born in Staten Island, NY to Andrew and Mary Rose (Gallagher) Oefelein. He served in the United States Marine Corps from 1948 to 1952. He graduated from Manhattan College with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and obtained his M.S. from New Mexico State University. He worked for Western Electric, Bell Laboratories, and Lucent Technologies, as a member of the technical staff, during the course of his career. He was a member of the Roxbury Auxiliary Police Association and was an usher for St. Therese's Church in Succasunna. He enjoyed cryptography and crossword puzzles and stayed current on technological and scientific information.

He was predeceased by three sisters and one granddaughter. He is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Melissa (Bluemel) Oefelein, his brother Andrew (Son-

ny) Oefelein; and his seven children MaryAnne Cospito of Ormond Beach FL; Joseph Oefelein and his wife Lisa of Pleasanton CA; Carol and her husband Alan Bilsky of Bangor, PA; Peggy and her husband John Kavanaugh of Rockaway, NJ; James and his wife Kathy Oefelein of Wesley Chapel, FL; Peter and his wife Carolyn Oefelein of Washington, NJ; and Melissa and her husband Albert Wartman III of Columbia, NJ. He is also survived by seventeen grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Friends and relatives may visit at the Davis & Hepplewhite Funeral Home, 96 Main Street, Succasunna 973-584-7264 (davishepplewhitefh.com) on Sunday from 2 - 6 pm. The Funeral Liturgy will be held on Monday, 10:30 am at St. Therese R C Church, Succasunna. In lieu of flowers, a donation to your favorite charity would be appreciated.

PATRICIA WREDE AGE: 88 • IRONIA

Patricia Wrede, 88, of Ironia, passed away peacefully at Paragon Village December 24, 2014 joining her loving husband Wallace in Heaven. Patricia spent her early years in Montclair, Chatham and Morristown before marrying and moving to Ironia. Pat was an amazing cook-taking pride and sharing her foods and welcoming all who entered her home. She cared deeply and displayed unparalleled love for those in her family and expressed a genuine kindness to all. She loved sports and as a young woman played softball and was a great infielder and hitter. Pat loved the New York Mets but refused to watch a Yankee game. She loved listening to music and had an amazing voice. She was a homemaker for most of her children's school years until taking a part time job as a school lunch aid with the Randolph Schools system, a job that gave her great joy and fulfillment. She retired from there in the late 1990's.

Pat was predeceased by her husband Wallace in 1999 and sisters Agnes Wrede,

Peggy Keiser, Barbara Glenia, not also brothers Frank Lee and Robert Lee. Survivors include sons F. Wallace Wrede of Randolph, William Wrede of Randolph, James Wrede of Hopatcong and daughters Patricia Stevenson of Great Meadows, Diana Gallagher of Independence, Wendy Marin of Hillsborough, Jackie Heslin of Long Valley and seventeen grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister Mary Eckardt of Saratoga, NY, brother John of Morris Plains and her brother Ben Lee of NC.

Visitation and services will be held at Tuttle Funeral Home, 272 State Route 10 West, Randolph (www.tuttlefh.com) Sunday, December 28, 2014, 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM. Funeral Service will follow at 6:00 PM also at the funeral home.

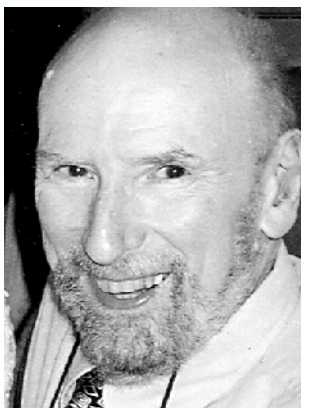
Family request in lieu of flowers please send donations to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or Wounded Warrior Project, PO Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66675.

ALFRED MICHAEL CITRO, JR. AGE: 79 • ROXBURY TOWNSHIP

Alfred Michael Citro, Jr., 79, died on December 25, 2014 at his home in Succasunna. He was born in Hoboken and grew up in Livingston. He lived in Lake Hiawatha before moving to Succasunna 53 years ago. He was a retired mechanic at Wigder Chevrolet in Livingston, where he worked for 50 years. He was an avid golfer and attended St. Therese R C Church in Succasunna.

He was predeceased by his daughter Anna Zakrzowski in 2008. He is survived by his wife Regina H (Philhower) Citro of 60 years. He also leaves a daughter Debra Citro of Wharton, son Michael (and Peggy) Citro of Newton, 6 grandchildren; Stacey Citro, Edward and Matthew Zakrzowski, Christopher Citro, Bobby Welch and Kerrena Carrajat, and 2 great grand children; Mikey and Makayla Carrajat.

Friends may visit at the Davis & Hepplewhite Funeral Home, 96 Main Street, Succasunna 973-584-7264 (davishepplewhitefh.com) on Monday, from 2-4 & 6-8 pm. Donations may be made in his name to Breast Cancer Awareness.



ROBERT J. MORRISSEY AGE: 81 • QUEENSBURY, NY

Robert J. Morrissey, 81, a resident of Queensbury, NY and Loxahatchee, FL passed away peacefully following a long illness on Tuesday December 23, 2014 at the Stratton Veterans Medical Center, Albany, NY.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated 10:00 am on Tuesday, December 30, 2014 at St. Mary's Church, Warren St, Glens Falls, NY. Calling hours are scheduled on Monday December 29, 2014 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm at the Regan Denny Stafford Funeral Home, 53 Quaker Rd., Queensbury, NY.

For those who wish to leave a special remembrance to the family or read the full obituary, may do so by visiting www.sbfuneralhome.com.

THERESA CRIMI AGE: 91 • TOTOWA



Theresa Crimi (nee Gianni), 91, of Totowa, formerly of Elmwood Park, passed away on December 24, 2014 surrounded by her loving family and several sisters of Little Sisters of the Poor. Beloved wife of the late John M. Crimi. Devoted mother of John and his wife Tracey, George and his wife Maxine and Peter and his wife Annie. Cherished grandmother of nine grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren.

Born in Passaic she resided in Elmwood Park for fifty five years before moving to Totowa at Little Sisters of the Poor. After the passing of her husband John in 1955, she devoted her life to raising her children with love and compassion and instilled in them the respect for others. She loved being a good cook and baker for her family. She was a parishioner of St. Anne's R.C. Church, Fairlawn.

Funeral will be held on Monday with a 9:30 am Mass of Christian Burial at St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly, Little Sisters of the Poor, 140 Shepherd's Lane, Totowa, N.J. Fr. Michael Drury celebrating. Visiting hours will be Sunday 2 to 8 pm at Little Sisters of the Poor. In lieu of flowers, donations to Little Sisters of the Poor would be appreciated. Arrangements by Gaita Memorial Home, 154 Newark Pompton Tpke., Little Falls. www.gaitamemorialhome.com.

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