

Community Corner

This week's question:

When did you file your tax return?

We asked this question Monday, April 15, at the Farmington post office.



"I mailed mine a long time ago. You don't wait if you're getting a refund."
— Sue Halberstadt
Farmington Hills



"I just spent \$1.75 to have it mailed. I was here earlier and came back."
— Gail Birch
Farmington Hills



"I filed mine Jan. 15 — got to get that refund."
— Don Darling
Farmington Hills



"Right now, I've got it all done."
— Greg Akoy
Farmington Hills



"I filed the federal two months ago. I just put (the state return) in the mailbox."
— Roger Yatzok
Farmington Hills



"Here they are — always at the last minute. Everyone's here for the same reason."
— Ken Felt
Farmington Hills

'I certainly am nothing special,' Nazi-hunter says

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As Klarsfeld spoke of her protests, her documentation of war crimes and tracking down of war criminals, many showed surprise as she mentioned her experiences in jail cells throughout Europe, the Middle East and South America.

"IT IS VERY hard to have heroes today," said Channel 2 anchorwoman Sherry Margolis of West Bloomfield, who introduced Klarsfeld. "Beate Klarsfeld is a modern-day hero." Calling Klarsfeld "a link between the past and the present," Margolis lauded her for being one of those people who "fought for justice in the name of those who cannot."

Had she been asked as a young woman in Germany after World War II what she would do with her life, Klarsfeld said she would never have guessed.

"I knew practically nothing about Nazi crimes," she said. "I would never have dreamed of being a hero to the Jewish people."

But her awakening to the atrocities of the Nazis began when she met her husband and his family. His

mother and sister survived the concentration camps. Her father-in-law did not. He was taken from his hiding place behind a false wall, deported to Auschwitz and killed in the gas chambers.

"After I arrived in France, I saw that I cannot cross my arms and do nothing," said Klarsfeld, mother of a 25-year-old son, an attorney, and 17-year-old daughter, who will soon graduate from high school.

The election of former Nazi Kurt-Georg Kiesinger as chancellor of West Germany in 1966 prompted Klarsfeld to take her feelings and put them into action. She protested and protested. Eventually she lost her job. "I was fired for saying a Nazi is a Nazi."

That was the beginning. Klarsfeld spoke of the painstaking process of gathering information and documenting the crimes committed by certain Nazis whom many European and South American governments refused to extradite for trial.

"These criminals were not hiding in South America. They were living openly. The situation to us was intolerable."

KURT LISIHE, a high-ranking Nazi and judge in

Germany, was one such war criminal. Klarsfeld's hunt for him began with a telephone call for his phone number.

In each case, Klarsfeld, her husband, and students who worked with the couple compiled memorial books about the victims of each of the Nazis known for deporting and eventually sending to their deaths millions of Jews throughout Europe.

A Sisterhood member asked how she can find people she knows were deported. Klarsfeld asked the woman to provide first and last names. She said would try to find out their fates.

One of Klarsfeld's most celebrated and publicized hunts was for Klaus Barbie, known as the Butcher of Lyon. That search began with a telephone call from a German man.

"I think I know this man," Klarsfeld recalled him saying. She tracked Barbie down from Germany to Peru and Bolivia. She worked to convince government officials and police "that this businessman was Klaus Barbie."

To make her case against Barbie, she took along the mothers of children Barbie had murdered. From one

dictator to another, Klarsfeld worked to have Barbie extradited for trial, and he finally was. "I am sure he will never be released (from life imprisonment)," Klarsfeld said.

Of Josef Mengele, who conducted atrocious medical experiments on concentration camp victims and was known as the Angel of Death, Klarsfeld said she believes he is dead.

KLARSFELD MANAGED to get into Mengele's son's apartment and found a passport and visa for Brazil. Why would the son travel to Brazil? Klarsfeld asked. After investigating, Klarsfeld reached a conclusion: "My personal conviction is he is dead. But you can never be 100 percent."

Plainly, Klarsfeld said, the world should not forget, and that means her work is not done. Many Nazis are now dead or dying. But she continues to fight anti-Semitism. She continues supporting Israel and the "moral rehabilitation" of Germany. Her agenda also includes protesting against those around the world who maintain the Holocaust never happened.

"As a German, I have a message. It's certainly important that Germans stand up," Klarsfeld said.

Farmington teachers gird for pink slips

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the state Senate voted to freeze property assessments last week. The state House was still debating a similar measure Wednesday afternoon. This is the only time of year the district can lay off teachers under contract provisions.

A NUMBER of pink slipped teachers could be saved if some senior-level teachers take a one-time severance incentive program offered

by the district. That would open jobs up for those on the layoff list.

Unofficial estimates this week put the number of teachers considering the buyout plan at 40.

Positions being eliminated include: more than 50 classroom teachers; 3 high school counselors; 6½ elementary specialty teachers in the areas of art, music, science and physical education; three middle school reading consultants; one media specialist; 4 gifted and special

needs coordinators, half a staff development trainer, 3 curriculum coordinators, and 9 in the area of special education.

Superintendent Michael Flanagan said Highmeadow and Hillside elementary schools would be especially hard hit because of the number of new teachers on staff at the schools.

He said Tuesday he would not offer a breakdown of the impact at each school.

Parents attending a preliminary

budget session Tuesday night told school board members they wanted to see anything done to keep teachers in the classrooms.

"Teachers are really at the heart," said parent Cynthia Zwinck, echoing the feelings of a number of others. "Anything that can be done to save

teachers should be done."

The teacher layoffs are just a portion of employee reductions in the district.

Six administrative jobs in the district were permanently eliminated last week, and during the months of May and June other cuts are expected

including: one executive secretarial position, between 65-70 office employees and teaching aides, 29 custodial positions, between 4-12 transportation positions and the district's portion of the school/police liaison at North Farmington High School.

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