SCHNEIDER

FROM PAGE A1

were silenced as cancer claimed the life of Schneider, 44, the community editor of the Canton Observer.

A Farmington Hills resident, he had been diagnosed in December. Though the battle was short-lived, it was hard-fought.

"He loved his family," said his wife, Lori. "When he found out he had cancer, he vowed to take it one day at a time. When he found out from doctors he had only six months to live, he said, 'I don't know if I'm going to make it ... I will always love you.'"

Born Dec. 19, 1958, Schneider was graduated from Oak Park High School in 1977. He studied journalism at Wayne State University, covering sports for The South End. He joined The Jewish News as a staff writer and editorial assistant in March 1979.

After leaving the Jewish News, Schneider joined the Observer newspapers as a reporter.

He worked in Garden City in January 1986. Schneider moved to Westland and, in 1991, to the reporting position in Livonia.

He assumed his first post as a community editor for the Redford Observer in August 1995, and became the Canton community editor in January 1997.

"Tedd was a good man. When the seriousness of Tedd's illness became known, that's what I heard from everyone," said Hugh Gallagher, managing editor of the Observer newspapers. "He was an outstanding community journalist, passionate about his work. He was a conscientious, insightful editorial writer, one of the best. He was devoted to his wife and daughter. He was a good man and we'll miss him."

During his 16 years with the Observer, Schneider had an impact not only on the people about whom he wrote, but also on the people with whom he worked.

"Tedd was my good buddy for many reasons. He was honorable, ethical, gentle, funny, charming and smart," said health writer Renee Skoglund.

Under Tedd Schneider's guidance, the Canton Observer won many awards.

"He liked a good joke and he liked cheeseburgers with bacon. He was my first friend when I started working for the paper several years ago. I sat across from Tedd and we'd exchange M & Ms and story ideas. I'll dearly miss his insight, his laugh and his friendship."

Schneider's particular gift was editorial writing, for which he was frequently honored by professional organizations. His insightfulness was counted on as the Observer developed its editorial direction. Under his guidance, the Canton Observer won many awards.

The Suburban Newspaper Association honored him in 1999 with first-place awards for local election coverage and in-depth reporting for "A Report on the District Court," a project Schneider coordinated for all Observer newspapers. He also won second-place honors that same year for his editorial writing.

The SNA recognized his leadership again in 2001, when the Canton Observer placed second for General Excellence. He won another editorial writing award in 2002, this time a third-place finish in the Michigan Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest.

"Tedd's warmth, humor and professionalism will be missed by all of us at the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers," said Susan Rosiek, executive editor of the O&E. "He was a wonderful column writer and an excellent editor. He cared deeply about the people and issues in Canton."

It was that kind of support that touched his family.

"I knew he was a wonderful and gifted writer, but I learned after talking to co-workers how good he was at his job as a manager," said his brother, David. "He was a great husband, brother, spouse and father."

Schneider was involved in the community he covered. He was a member of the Plymouth Kiwanis, worked closely with the Canton Chamber of Commerce and with the Canton Community Foundation.

"I appreciated Tedd's gentle, open-minded, caring professionalism," said Canton Community Foundation President Joan Noricks. "It really crossed over when he talked about his family. He really loved his wife and daughter, and I think he really loved what he did as a newspaperman."

He is survived by his wife, Lori, and 8-year-old daughter, Sarah, of Farmington Hills; parents, Howard and Fran Schneider; brother, David (Dahlia Ronen) Schneider of Vernon Hills, Ill.; sisters, Judith (Paul) Madarasz of Tucson, Ariz., and Ruth Ann (Michael) Williams of Southfield; nieces and nephews Hope and Isabella Schneider, Max and Brianna Hamilton and Kevin and Ilyssa Beltzman.

Contributions may be made to the National Kidney Foundation, 2350 S. Huron Parkway, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, or the Karmanos Cancer Institute, 24601 Northwestern Highway, Southfield, MI 48075.

Interment at Clover Hill Park Cemetery in Birmingham. Services and arrangements by Hebrew Memorial Chapel.

bludrich@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 459-2700

KING

FROM PAGE A1

"I was in forensics in middle school at St. Clare Montefalco," she said.

Marshall continued public speaking in high school, where she competed with the Catholic Forensics League, a metro Detroit group. She made it to the quarterfinals in a 2001 national competition in New York City.

She takes time and special effort in preparing to give the famous speech.

"I have to get into his mind and see where he is going with things," she said.

The messages are strong: "His message of equality, everyone is equal, what we understand about non-violence, and we are brothers and sisters."

Marshall doesn't yet know where she will attend college. She's hoping for a track scholarship and wants to be an orthopedic surgeon with an emphasis on sports medicine.

Both her mother, Juanita, and father, Larry, are registered nurses at Sinai-Grace Hospital in Detroit. Sister Lairen, 20, attends Kalamazoo College and brother Larry, 19, attends Loyola University in Chicago.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mercy senior Alexandria Marshall will once again recite Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have A Dream" speech during Sunday's celebration.

Candlelight walk slated Sunday

BY JONI HUBRED
STAFF WRITER

Students from Farmington elementary and secondary schools, along with local officials and community leaders, will gather once again Sunday to honor the memory of slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King.

King, who was shot in a Memphis hotel room on April 4, 1968, was born Jan. 15, 1929.

Angie Smith, one of the event organizers, said the annual Candlelight Walk will start at 5 p.m. on Jan. 19, at the William Costick Activities Center on 11 Mile Road east of Middlebelt. After picking up their candles, walkers will proceed west on 11 Mile to Nardin Park Methodist Church, where a program will be held.

The program will include musical selections from the Gill and Woodcreek Elementary choirs.

Three teachers from O.E. Dunckel Middle School will sing the National Anthem; the Black National Anthem will be performed by Brenda Gold-Sloan, Smith said.

Co-chair Dr. Sharon Cooper, also from Dunckel, is scheduled to speak, along with Farmington Hills Mayor Nancy Bates, Farmington Mayor Jim Mitchell, School Board President Linda Enberg, and co-chairs Karen Bolsen and Jim Hall from the Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council, which sponsors the event.

Mercy High senior Alexandria Marshall will deliver Dr. King's "I Have a Dream Speech" for her third and final year. Smith said the program will end with a chorus of "We Shall Overcome."

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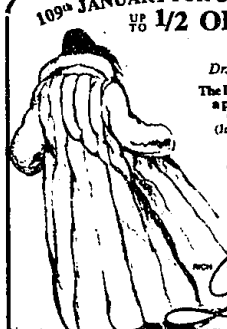

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