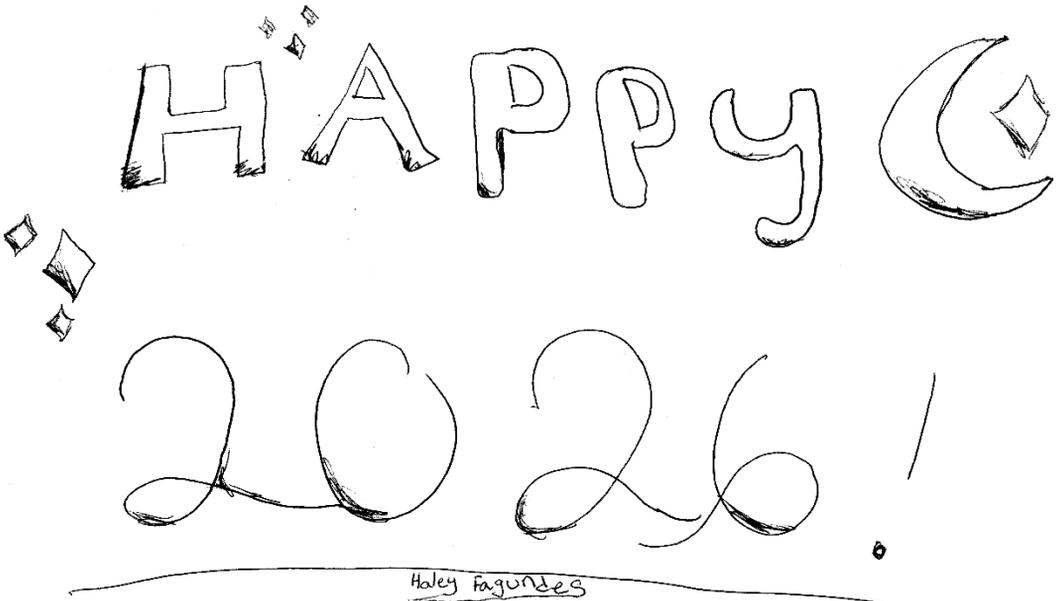


Congregational Church of Phillipston, U.C.C.
60 The Common
Phillipston, MA 01331

Phillipston
Community
Newsletter
Vol. 40 No.1

January 2026



The Phillipston Congregational Church, U.C.C.
Our Community Church

Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School begins at 10:00 a.m.

Dear Friends,

In the darkness of midwinter, I remember the Epiphany, the light the Wisemen followed to find Jesus and I share this poem with you. May God's light shine brightly in your lives in the coming year.

An Epiphany poem (January 6) by Gerhard Frost

If I am asked

what are my grounds for hope,

this is my answer:

Light is Lord over darkness,

Truth is Lord over falsehood,

Life is Lord over death.

Of all the facts I daily live with,
There are none more comforting
than this: If I have two rooms,
one dark, the other light,
and I open the door between them,
the dark room becomes light
without the light one becoming darker.
I know this is no headline,
but it is a marvelous footnote;
and God comforts me in that.

Your sister in Christ,

Rev. Stephanie C. Flynn

Our Epiphany service will be on Sunday, January 4 and Sunday School will resume on Sunday, January 11.

THE NEWSLETTER IS ON www.phillipston.com
February 2026 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS January 23rd
For more info go to : www.phillipston.com/priceinfo.pdf
Email to: newsletter@phillipston.com

NARRAGANSETT REGIONAL MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ROOF PROJECT

Templeton Vote - **January 6, 2026 @ HS Gym**

Phillipston Vote - **January 15, 2026 @ Phillipston Town Hall**

Construction to replace the High School roof & repair qualifying sections of the
Middle School roof

Total construction cost: \$10,864,548

Yes Vote =

- Prevent leaks and mold growth; upgrading the roof insulation, which is currently outdated and wet, will improve the building's energy efficiency. Building integrity is crucial. Although this isn't an issue now, ongoing water exposure could eventually weaken the metal beams and brickwork supporting the structure.

- 59% MSBA State reimbursement = Total Estimated Max Facilities Grant: \$6,111,695

- Local Funding Share

- Remaining local cost: \$4,752,853

- District to issue 20-year bond

- Estimated cost of Bond (Principal & Interest): \$7,057,471

- Templeton(85%): \$5,998,850

- Phillipston(15%): \$1,058,621

- Tax Rate Increase

- Phillipston: Approximate \$75.00 annual increase to the average single-family home

- Templeton: Approximate \$95.19 annual increase to the average single-family home

No Vote =

- The District will not be able to submit a Statement of Interest for the MSBA's consideration until 2028.

- There is no guarantee the District will be accepted into the program in the next round, nor that it would receive the same 59% reimbursement rate if it were approved.

- A failing roof is not like a fine wine - it does not improve with age. Any delay in addressing these issues will lead to further deterioration and more serious deficiencies.

- As the roof continues to deteriorate, the overall cost to the towns will rise dramatically.

Phillipston Broadband and Cable Advisory Committee

Our technology questions can easily overwhelm us.

- "What the heck just happened to my computer?"
- "What's this AI stuff, and is it going to kill us?"
- "My kids have iPhones, and I've got this old Samsung? Should I get an iPhone or stick with what I know?"

You may have had these questions. We have monthly tech sessions. Bring your gadget and get help.

You, however, might have been the one who has helped others. If so, how about sharing that knowledge with others?

In addition to its core mission of ensuring that everyone in town has access to high-speed connections, the Phillipston Broadband and Cable Advisory Committee offers technical assistance to townspeople.

You needn't be an expert. You just need to be curious and helpful. If this sounds interesting, get in touch. Send an email to cable@phillipston-ma.gov.

Phillipston Lions

Meeting January 13, 2026

7pm at the Phillipston Library (snow date January 27th)

Join us with ideas, some help or just a night out of the house.

Lunchroom, what is that?

A free meal! For anyone!

Soup, meal, desserts, hot drinks and to get out of the weather.

January 14, February 11, March 11. 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Have lunch with us, bring the kids.

Donations are welcome!

We have NEW! Eye glass & Hearing Aid collection boxes at the transfer station or by calling Marilyn 978-503-2269

Senior Meal Delivery on Tuesday January 24, 2026 (snow date January 28th.)

Lions are taking a few months off. Next Breakfast will be March 21, 2026 Special
Homemade Corned Beef Hash.

Phillips Free Public Library

Library Hours

Tuesday 9-2pm

Wednesday 5-7pm

Saturday 9-1 pm

Board of Trustees Meeting:

January 6, 2026, 2pm.

* “like” our Facebook page

Phillips Free Public Library

New Materials

New books: Nash Falls by David Baldacci, Otherwise Engaged by Susan Mallery, Christmas at the Restaurant by Pamela Kelley, Blown Away by Stuart Woods, Better in Black by Cassandra Clare, The Picasso Heist by James Patterson, Mother Mary Comes to Me by Arundhati Roy and The World Almanac and book of facts 2026

Children’s Books: The Christmas Sweater by Jan Brett, Dog Man: Big Jim Believes by Dave Pilkey, The Scariest Book in the whole entire world by Joey Acker, The Christmas Owl by Gideon Sterer

BOOK CLUB & Yankee Swap

Our next read is The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah. We will meet to discuss it on **Tuesday, January 13 at 5:30**. Copies available to borrow. We will also have a voluntary Yankee Swap during our meeting! Bring a wrapped gift \$5- ish. New members are always welcome!

Time Capsule

We are putting together a ‘time capsule’ to bury near the foundation, when we hope to have some repairs done next year. We’d love your ideas about what it should contain! Maybe a 2025 penny? the latest issue of the newsletter? Any other ideas?

Agricultural Commission

Next Meeting March 12, 2026 7 PM

Town Hall Annex

All are welcome for ideas: Farmers Market, Community Garden

Pumpkin Weight In.

Winter Project

1946 Willys Jeep

Need Tub (main body)

Loving care to put it all together.

Call 978-621-3037

Asking \$1,000.00

A Special Town Election will be held on January 15, 2026

Polls opening at 12:00pm and closing at 8:00pm
at the Phillipston Town Hall – Upstairs assembly area
Last day to register to vote is January 5, 2026

Question 1:

Shall the Town of Phillipston be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay the Town's allocable share of the bond issued by the Narragansett Regional School District for the purpose of paying costs related to the Narragansett Regional High School full roof replacement project located at 460 Baldwinville Road and the Narragansett Middle School partial roof replacement project located at 464 Baldwinville Road, Baldwinville, MA, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto?

YES ____ No ____

At the Special Town Meeting on December 3, 2025

The following Article was voted:

MOTION:

Move that the Town approve the \$10,864,548 borrowing authorized by the Narragansett Regional School District (the "District"), for the purpose of paying costs related to a potential Accelerated Repair Project involving the Narragansett Regional High School full roof replacement project (\$9,176,314), located at 460 Baldwinville Rd., Baldwinville, MA, and the Narragansett Regional Middle School partial roof replacement project (\$1,688,234) located at 464 Baldwinville Rd., Baldwinville, MA, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the schools and preserve assets that otherwise are capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the District may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (the "MSBA"), said amount to be expended at the direction of Narragansett Regional School District School Committee; that the Town acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any Project costs the District incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District and its member municipalities; and that the amount of borrowing authorized by the District shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the District and the MSBA. This approval is conditioned upon an affirmative vote of the Town to exclude the amounts needed to repay the Town's allocable share of this borrowing from the limitation on local property taxes contained in Chapter 59, Section 21C of the General Laws (also known as Proposition 2 ½).

Motion carried to hold override vote



The First “Big Dig”

Visit Anne’s website at: www.anneoc.com

The Hoosac Tunnel took 25 years to build, went bankrupt three times and came in ten times over budget. Sound familiar? We’ll take talk about why the tunnel in western Massachusetts was needed, how it was funded, the new technology developed, labor practices and the absolutely amazing reality that this 100-plus-year-old hole through a mountain range is still an important part of our transportation infrastructure. Interspersed with images and music.



Council on Aging will present a program about the construction of The Hoosac Tunnel. All are welcome. For more information call Paula at 978-407-9504 January 20, 2026, at the Senior Lunch. Phillipston church.

SENIOR LUNCH MENU

Jan. 6th Tuscan Chicken, Roasted potatoes, Vegetable medley, dinner roll, cinnamon apples.

Please call by Jan 4th to make a reservation 978-407-9504

Jan. 20th Pork Cacciatore, white rice, green beans, cornbread loaf, applesauce.

Please call by Jan. 15th to make a reservation. 978-407-9504

Lunch is served at noon. A \$3.50 donation is appreciated.

JOIN us for stories about the building of the **Hoosac Tunnel**.

JANUARY 20th at 11 am at the Phillipston Congregational Church

For more information call 978-407-9504 Paula

Narragansett Regional School District PK/Kindergarten Survey

SURVEY FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

This survey is intended to collect how many students will be expected to attend Kindergarten or Preschool next school year. This information will help the district in planning for staff. The form is located at: <https://forms.gle/EhAiDtt3bGE62Fdj6>
When you send the completed form it will be sent directly to me, Terry LaBonte, Early Childhood Coordinator, Templeton Elementary School.

Do you have a child who will be 5 years old by August 31, 2026? Yes / NO

If yes , do you plan on enrolling your child in the district's kindergarten program?

Yes / No

If no, where will the child be attending (home school, another school)?

Do you have a child or children who will be 3 or 4 years old by August 31, 2026?

Yes / No

If yes, do you plan on enrolling your child in the district's preschool program?

Yes / No

If yes, which program would you most likely enroll the child in?

2 Half Day / 3 Half Day / 4 Half Day / 5 Half Day / 5 Full day program



Congratulations to Citizens of the Year



**** Michael Flye ****

Since 1986, the Town of Phillipston has honored a citizen with the Alphonse Chartier Citizen of the Year Award, an award given to a person who has made significant contributions to the betterment of our town. This year, Mike Flye was selected for the prestigious award.

Words of tribute spoken by Gerhard Fandreyer described Mike well: Mike has served the town in various capacities, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to public service - service marked by positive attitude, reliability, respectfulness, and adaptability. Mike's commitment in the finance committee is instrumental in guiding our town's financial decisions. And, for many years acting as president of Phillipston's Historical Society, Mike has guided this vital organization with collaboration and creativity. His love for history is clearly evident in his active participation in Civil War reenactments in several states where he, not only organizes events but also, wears an authentic combat uniform and utilizes historic military rifles and live canon. He is truly able to make history come alive!

Being a true volunteer at heart, Mike is always ready to lend a hand wherever it is needed. He is involved in the Memorial Day parade in Town as well as the Land Rover organization where he demonstrates his commendable teamwork skills.

Congratulations, Mike, and thank you for the lasting impact you have made on Phillipston

Congratulations Mike Flye!

In Memory Of

| | | |
|----------------------------|------|--|
| Philip McMahon | from | His Wife, Thelma and family who will always miss you |
| Dr. Robert S. Clark | from | His Daughter, Stephanie Flynn + family |
| Jeanne K. Clark | from | Her Daughter, Stephanie Flynn + family |
| George Marshall | from | His Loving Wife, Jean Marshall |
| Nancy Goodhart | from | Her Sister, Jean Marshall |
| Beverly Maselli | from | Her Sister, Jean Marshall |
| Sidney T. Holway | from | His Wife, Marilyn Holway |
| Albert E. Foster | from | His Daughter, Marilyn Holway |
| Ruth E. Foster | from | Her Daughter, Marilyn Holway |
| Florence R. Holway | from | Her Daughter-in-law Marilyn Holway |
| Spear T. Holway | from | His Daughter-in-law, Marilyn Holway |
| Cassie Lee Wilkins | from | Her Dear Friend, Marilyn Holway |
| Byron R. Holway | from | His Sister-in-Law, Marilyn Holway |
| Peter Richard | from | His Friend, Marilyn Holway |
| Michael Young | from | His Friend, Marilyn Holway |
| Shirley Holway | from | Her Sister-in-Law, Marilyn Holway |
| Ryan Twohey | from | His Parents, Craig + Jean Twohey |
| June Twohey | from | Her Son, Craig + Jean Twohey |
| Paul Twohey | from | His Son, Craig + Jean Twohey |
| Brian Twohey | from | His Brother, Craig + Jean Twohey |
| Mark Twohey | from | His Brother, Craig + Jean Twohey |
| Kevin Twohey | from | His Brother, Craig + Jean Twohey |
| Bart Gariepy | from | His Loving Parents, Gerry + Carole Gariepy |
| Gwen + Jim Lombard | from | Their Daughter, Carole + Gerry Gariepy |
| Armand + Elizabeth Gariepy | from | Their Son, Gerry + Carole Gariepy |

In Memory Of

| | | |
|-------------------------|------|---|
| Edward Richard | from | His Son, Mark Richard and Jennifer LeBlanc, and family |
| Nicole Richard | from | Her Son, Mark Richard and Jennifer LeBlanc, and family |
| Lee "Michael" LeBlanc | from | His Daughter, Jennifer LeBlanc and Mark Richard, and family |
| Peter Richard | from | His Devoted Wife, Kay Deans |
| Mary Deans | from | Her sister-in-law, Kay Deans |
| Mary (Deans) Shirley | from | Her sister, Kay Deans |
| Robert Deans | from | His sister, Kay Deans |
| Bob + Kay Deans | from | Their Daughter, Kay Deans |
| Kay Gomez-Debrosse | from | Her "Big Sister" Kay Deans |
| Peter + Blanche Richard | from | Their Daughter-in-law, Kay Deans |
| Frank Tannehill | from | His Sister-in-law, Kay Deans |
| Ruth Daoust | from | Her Grandson, Tom Daoust + wife Sarah Leonard and Family |
| Harold Daoust | from | His Grandson, Tom Daoust + wife Sarah Leonard and Family |
| Donna Leonard | from | Her Daughter, Sarah Leonard + husband Tom Daoust and Family |
| Barbie Davis | from | Her Niece, Sarah Leonard, Tom Daoust + Family |
| Gregory G. Larson | from | His Wife, Sandra Larson |
| Adolph + Olga Beltram | from | Their Daughter, Sandra Larson |
| Silvia Polli | from | Her Granddaughter, Sandra Larson |
| Herman Polli | from | His Niece, Sandra Larson |
| Anne Harrington | from | Her Niece, Sandra Larson |
| Margaret Sarno | from | Her Friend, Sandra Larson |
| David Gavin | from | His Friend, Sandra Larson |
| Alan Browne | from | His friend, Sandra Larson |
| Gregory G. Larson | from | His Son, Keith Larson |
| Adolph Beltram | from | His Grandson, Keith Larson |

| <i>In Appreciation of</i> | | |
|--|------|---|
| All our Phillipston Friends | from | Your Friends, Carole + Gerry Gariepy |
| The Sterling + Nancy Whiting farm providing Christmas trees for the Common for 2 decades | from | The Historical Society of Phillipston |
| Brookside Equipment: Dan and Roger McHugh | from | The Historical Society of Phillipston |
| Don Schlicke, for granting the use of his field for civil war re-enactments | from | The Historical Society of Phillipston and Mike Flye |
| Gerhard Fandreyer, for so many years of setting up the Christmas Tree Lighting on the Common | from | The Historical Society of Phillipston |
| <i>In Appreciation of</i> | | |
| Davie Buchans for the Christmas tree on the Common this year | from | The Historical Society of Phillipston |
| All of the loyal, hard-working volunteers of the Historical Society | from | The Historical Society of Phillipston |
| Davie Buchans for the Christmas tree on the Common this year | from | The Historical Society of Phillipston |
| All of the loyal, hard-working volunteers of the Historical Society | from | The Historical Society of Phillipston |
| <i>Best Wishes for Recovery of Strength + Vigor To</i> | | |
| Marilyn Holway | from | Linda + Brian Langevin |
| <i>In Honor Of</i> | | |
| All of our Military Service Men + Women Who Have Served For Us | from | Marilyn Holway |

In Celebration Of

| | | |
|---|------|---|
| The Godnea Twins | from | Their Great Grammie, Jean Marshall |
| Jane French | from | Her Friends, Laureen + Matt Moran |
| Ty Ulmer | from | His Wife, Best Friend, and Soul Mate, Cynthia Ulmer |
| Tyler + Tianna Liburdi who are expecting their first baby in May while stationed in Japan | from | Their Great Grandmother, Thelma McMahan |
| Talia Liburdi who is teaching in Spain | from | Her Great Grandmother, Thelma McMahan |
| Talia McDonald, 14 years old | from | Her Great Grandmother, Thelma McMahan |
| Antonia Cicero, 7 years old | from | His Great Grandmother, Thelma McMahan |
| Rocco Cicero, 4 years old | from | His Great Grandmother, Thelma McMahan |
| Ryder Cicero, 11 years old | from | His Great Grandmother, Thelma McMahan |
| Makenna Cicero, 8 years old | from | Her Great Grandmother, Thelma McMahan |
| Zoe DeMars, 6 years old | from | Her Great Grandmother, Thelma McMahan |
| Roland "Buddy" Slate | from | His Loving Daughter, Cynthia Ulmer |
| Our four wonderful grandchildren: Rachel, Caroline, Emily and Lauren Brouillet | from | Their grandparents, Linda + Brian Langevin |
| Larry French - for Duty, Honor, and Country | from | His friend and U.S. Army brother, Russ Flagg |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

In Memory Of

| | | |
|-------------------------|------|--|
| Olga Beltram | from | Her Grandson, Keith Larson |
| Elaine Larson | from | Her Grandson, Keith Larson |
| Al Larson | from | His Grandson, Keith Larson |
| Marilyn Anderson | from | Her Granddaughter Maura + Keith Larson |
| John H. Anderson | from | His Granddaughter, Maura + Keith Larson |
| Francis Jamieson | from | His Granddaughter, Maura + Keith Larson |
| Rita Jamieson | from | Her Granddaughter, Maura + Keith Larson |
| Mary Sherlock | from | Her Neice, Maura + Keith Larson |
| Sarah MacIsaac | from | Her Cousin, Maura Larson |
| Margaret Sarno | from | Her Nephew, Keith + Maura Larson |
| Lydia Sturke Perzanoski | from | Her Daughter, Debi Shaw |
| Edmund Leon Perzanoski | from | His Daughter, Debi Shaw |
| Dorothea Goddard Sturke | from | Her Granddaughter, Debi Shaw |
| Robert C. Sturke | from | His Granddaughter, Debi Shaw |
| Lestina Moody Goddard | from | Her Great Granddaughter, Debi Shaw |
| William Goddard | from | His Great Granddaughter, Debi Shaw |
| Leo + Roberta Reponen | from | Their Daughters, Sue and Jeanne Reponen |
| Wayne Richard | from | His long-time high school Friends, Sue and Jeanne Reponen |
| Spaulding Rose | from | His Son, Al Rose + Nancy and grandchildren + great grandchildren |
| Carolyn Rose | from | Her Son, Al Rose + Nancy and grandchildren + great grandchildren |
| Henry Babin | from | His Daughter, Shelley + Tom Berry |
| Lea Babin | from | Her Daughter, Shelly + Tom Berry |
| Bobby Babin | from | His Sister, Shelly + Tom Berry |

In Memory Of

| | | |
|---------------------|------|---|
| Susan Berry | from | Her Son, Tom Berry and Shelly Berry |
| Clarence Specht | from | His Son Tom Specht who thanks you for your love and mentoring |
| Phyllis Specht | from | Her Son Tom Specht + wife Janice who thank you for your love and guidance |
| Jean Alber | from | Her daughter, Janice and husband Tom Specht |
| William Schatz | from | His Daughter Janice Specht + Son-in-Law Tom |
| Donald Haggett, Sr. | from | His Son Gary Haggett |
| Hazel Haggett | from | Her Son Gary Haggett |
| Donald Haggett, Jr. | from | His Brother Gary Haggett |
| April Haggett | from | Her Brother-in-law Gary Haggett |
| Jamie Haggett | from | His Brother Gary Haggett |
| Hazel Cook | from | Her daughter Julie, and Jeff + Kenneth Hockman |
| Frederick Cook | from | His daughter Julie, and Jeff + Kenneth Hockman |
| Adella Lapinskas | from | Her Niece Julie, and Jeff + Kenneth Hockman |
| Mabel Boutelle | from | Her Granddaughter Julie, and Jeff + Kenneth Hockman |
| William Boutelle | from | His Granddaughter Julie, and Jeff + Kenneth Hockman |
| L. Keith MacEwen | from | His Loving wife, Nancy MacEwen |
| Thelma Divoll | from | Her Daughter, Nancy MacEwen |
| Mabel France | from | Her Daughter-in-law, Nancy MacEwen |
| Larry French | from | His Friends, Laureen + Matt Moran |
| Daniel Pecoy | from | His Mother, JoAnn + Peter Haley |
| Donald Schlicke | from | His Friends, Peter + JoAnn Haley |

In Memory Of

| | | |
|---|------|--|
| Brian Ward | from | His Friends, Peter + JoAnn Haley |
| Larry French | from | His Friends, Peter + JoAnn Haley |
| Edna + Arnold Haley, who always put their love of their Community + Church above themselves | from | Their Son and Daughter-in-law, Peter + Joann Haley |
| Ernest Fandreyer | from | His Son, Gerhard Fandreyer |
| Wilfred Fandreyer | form | His Nephew, Gerhard Fandreyer |
| Donald Wilson | form | His Friend, Gerhard Fandreyer |
| Ryan Twohey | form | His Friend, Gerhard Fandreyer |
| Hope Sterbinsky | from | Her Daughter Janice Bosse and family |
| Tom Sterbinsky | from | His Sister Janice Bosse and Family |
| Stephen Sterbinsky | from | His Sister Janice Bosse and Family |
| Herve Bosse | from | His Wife, Janice Bosse |
| Donald Wilson | from | His Loved Daughter, Nancy Wilson |
| Valerie Wilson | from | Her Loved Daughter, Nancy Wilson |
| Hope Sterbinsky | from | Her Daughters: Anita, Janice, Diane, Patricia, Roasalie and Their Families |
| Tom Sterbinsky | from | His Sisters: Anita, Janice, Diane, Patricia, Roasalie and Their Families |
| Laura Arredondo | from | Her Father and Brother, Don + Mike Flye |
| Barbara Flye | from | Her Son Mike Flye |
| Kenneth Furtado | from | His Duaghter Betty Dion Flye |
| Robert Schlicke | from | His Daughter, Sue Ziats |
| Lenore Schlicke | from | Her Daughter, Sue Ziats |
| Steve Schlicke | from | His Sister, Sue Ziats |
| Don Schlicke | from | His Sister, Sue Ziats |