

## PATRICIA C. & JOHN CELII, JR. FOUNDATION

established 1999



Patricia A. Cloud  
626 E. Cypress St.  
St. Patrick, Kennett Square  
Art may claim this cordial senior if she persists in becoming a commercial artist.



John J. Celii  
221 W. Lancaster Ave.  
St. Joseph, Downingtown  
Although he appears to be passive, John stores a supply of energy for unexpected happenings.

- He was on the baseball team...She was his cheerleader.
- He was from Downingtown...She was from Kennett.
- He was from a small family...She had relatives too numerous to count.
- He was a "class clown" whose mother begged Reverend Kehoe to accept him at Bishop Shanahan High School and to "straighten him out"...She was a diligent student and volunteer church organist, who later discovered that the Shanahan nuns yearned to recruit her to the Sisterhood.
- In his senior year book, his friend Buddy noted, "If you ever succeed in life it will be a surprise to me."... In hers, it said, "Art may claim this cordial senior."
- Opposites attract...It has been an incredible journey.

**Much has happened to John and Pat Celii** in the five decades since their 1961 graduation. True to Bishop Shanahan's school motto, together they **"seek the things that are found above"** in a variety of facets. "Life is about risk--strategic, calculated risk," intones John Celii. Adds Pat, "It's also about family...having an incredibly strong support system so that you can take chances, and share the rewards if they come your way." "Fortunately, the rewards came our way," explains John, "because we're lucky. Damn lucky. However, we made many sacrifices and worked hard to make that luck happen."

**John and Pat finish each other's sentences.** They seem to read each other's mind. It is clear that these high school sweethearts are still very much in love after five decades. They live in a gorgeous 19th century gentleman's farmhouse restored by the best architects and builders around. Lovingly decorated by Pat, her flair for artistic design shows in every nook. And their philanthropy is inspiring. "Philanthropy began with restoring our home," jokes John. "And it readily extended to the community around us," explains Pat.

**Of course it wasn't always easy.** After the high school sweethearts married in 1962, they lived in the tiniest apartment in Downingtown. John toiled at night school earning his BS in Accounting and Finance at St. Joseph's College while working full time. John left home by 7 a.m. and returned after 11:30 p.m., while Pat raised their two beautiful daughters, Jacqui and Stephanie. "I often wonder how we made it work," remarks John. "Family," answers Pat knowingly, "The kindness of grandmom and our parents. And lots of patience...a strong sense of deep commitment...and dreams...and taking chances...and hard work."

**"Yes...family....Thank God for my mother in-law,"** laughs John. "She paved the way to get me a first interview which turned into an extremely successful 20 year career." John first worked in Avondale at F&M Scientific, just as Hewlett-Packard Co. acquired it from Frank Martinez, Aaron Martin and Gene Bennett. "It was a terrific experience...being on the ground floor of a strategic move like that." Soon after, Hewlett-Packard recognized John's natural-born talent, work ethic, and hands on experience. "Moving to HP's corporate headquarters in Palo Alto, California at the dawn of the computer industry was huge!" exclaims John.