

## Educated, Now What? *Jo Leonard* Getting over college, getting on with life

"I'm headed into finals and I'm stressed out," is the cry from college campuses around the country.

If your college senior can be heard huffing and puffing down the telephone line, and you're wondering what the next few months will bring, this column is for you.

The majority of 2005 graduates have not yet found a job, and may not even have considered what they're going to do next.

Finals seem like the most important and immediate concern and that's just fine — for now. If they haven't yet landed a job, avoid adding this subject to their load at the moment. Send care packages, leave encouraging, funny emails and voice mails and be sure to listen with kind ears when they call to say they messed up a final exam. They know how important these tests are, and only a huge amount of positive encouragement is going to really resonate with them at this time.

Come June, however, when the hats have been thrown, the scrolls given out and the speeches made, things should change.

Parents, you have two choices now, either get them on the career search bandwagon or stay cool for a few weeks to give them time to cool down and chill out.

Keep in mind that the summer is a fantastic time to begin the market research phase of their career search. Whether or not they have decided on a career path, carefully considered research should be done to either eliminate career options or confirm choices.

The now famous "Informational Interview" strategy is much easier to put into action during the summer. Why? Because the people you want to meet tend to be more relaxed during the summer months and more likely to

agree to a meeting. For exceptional informational interview questions, please send us a request for a free Career Search Newsletter at [Info@Joleonard.com](mailto:Info@Joleonard.com).

So even if your new graduate doesn't feel much like doing anything about the career search until the end of the summer, we highly recommend that they commit just a few hours a week to it, even if only to set up some informational interviews. Not only will this get them off to a better start when they're ready, but it will have given them some interview practice.

If they do fall into the "proactive, eager and excited" category, keep reading this column. We will address the entire career search strategy in coming weeks. We'll talk about developing a marketing plan, organizing and using your personal network, creating exceptional marketing materials and interviewing like a professional. We'll also talk about finding a good mentor to give them unbiased training and advice.

Finding a career that focuses not only on their strengths but also on their passions, is a *must*. Even if you're skeptical about their choices, so long as they're based on their passions they're more likely to do well, be successful and, most importantly, be happy.

If you have specific questions about your graduate's career search, send them to us. We will try to answer all inquiries in future columns. All questions and comments may be directed to [newhope@ingnews.com](mailto:newhope@ingnews.com).

*Jo Leonard is the president of Jo Leonard, LLC. "Partners in Career Navigation," with offices in Lumberville and Lambertville, N.J. Visit [www.joleonard.com](http://www.joleonard.com).*

## Full slate planned for benefit

Parents and students of the New Hope-Solebury School District are planning a "New Hope for New Hope" benefit weekend Friday and Saturday, with all of the proceeds going directly to the flood victims in the New Hope and Lambertville, N.J. communities.

The fund-raiser will begin with a silent auction and cabaret night Friday in the cafeteria of the New Hope-Solebury Upper Elementary School. The auction will be held prior to the cabaret performance at 6 p.m.

Winners will be announced during the show's intermission.

The school district reported earlier that donations have "poured" into its collection effort. Among the businesses who have contributed thus far are The Artisans Gallery, ME Salon & Day Spa and Fred Beans auto retailers, among others.

The weekend-long event will continue Saturday with a "Spring Fling,"



A selection of the items that were donated by area businesses to be sold during a benefit silent auction Friday at New Hope-Solebury Upper Elementary School.

which will include a student film festival, musical performances by students, karaoke, a cookout and other various family-oriented activities.

Tickets to the "Cabaret Night" are \$30, and admission to the "Spring Fling" ranges from \$8 to \$15.

Tickets for both events will be available at the door.

For further information or for tickets, call 215-862-2028.

Checks should be made payable to: "New Hope-Solebury School District Flood Relief Fund," and mailed to New Hope-Solebury High School, 180 West Bridge Street, New Hope, Pa., 18938. Inquiries may also be emailed to [mpitner@nhsd.org](mailto:mpitner@nhsd.org).



## WELCOME DAY 2005

Saturday 5/14/05 \* A street fair with flair!

**Artists & Businesses:**

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**Good Neighbors:**

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**Neighbors:**

- A Dollar Way Belgians Appliances
- Neighborhood Grill & Bar
- Courier Three, Inc.
- Federle Harris & Village
- Pennier Bank
- Prater's Pet & Food
- St. Mary Medical Center
- United National Bank

**ARTS FESTIVAL**  
50+ Craftsmen & Artists.



**FREE ACTIVITIES**  
Fun for Families & Kids



Photo courtesy of the Artisans of Arts Bucks

- Pony Rides
- Wagon Rides
- Face Painting
- NEPA "Make-A-Paper"
- Sun of Balls
- Marshmallow Slush
- Moon Bounce
- Hoops & Ball Pitch

**PLUS:** Food, Giveaways & more!

Enjoy Free Parking & Shuttle Bus @ Council Rock High School-North

Visit [www.newtownpa.org](http://www.newtownpa.org) for info on the NEPA, artists & rain date.

**NEWTOWN, PA**  
N. State St. - 10am to 4pm



**Rain date: 5/15**

**ENTERTAINMENT**  
3 Stages featuring:



**Therapy Hall,** presented by Newtown School of Music

Jennifer with Gift, Blue Barry Friends, Jazz The Hillside, Rock Band Music Makers, Sing Band Rose Parade, PopFloor Lord of the Dance, Singspace Mike Perez, Vocalist State Street 7, Jazz Band Fe Band, Steel Drum Michael Luciano, Singer Newtown Arts Co. Troops Michel School of Irish Dance Holly Gannon & Nick Mike Miller, Magician Poppy Barberhop Quartet WCCB Live Broadcast

Photo: Leigh Vogel, Zebra Print Design








**NEPA ANTIQUE & CLASSIC CAR SHOW 7/24/05 - N. State St. in Newtown. Interested in participating? Visit [www.newtownpa.org](http://www.newtownpa.org) for our entry form or contact Charlie Lewis (215)906-0911**

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for family fun close to home.

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