

Community Learning Center graduates ten

On June 12, Community Learning Center (CLC) staff and board joined students and their families and friends in celebration of ten graduates' honorable achievement—the attainment of their GEDs.

The Lewis Elkin Elementary School auditorium was filled with high spirits as staff and volunteers decorated the room and set up refreshment tables and kids' stations. While graduates prepared themselves in white caps and gowns to walk proudly in the processional, the moment they had all been waiting for began: graduation.

Jazz pianist Dave Posmontier accompanied graduates as they made their way up the aisle.

Student Lou Wojciechowski, 77, spoke proudly of the attainment of his high school diploma. He is living proof that no matter what age, everyone has the opportunity to apply the determination and hard work that brings about the realization of life-long goals.

Vernetta Santos struggled for several years but spoke with good humor and pride about her many late nights at CLC to earn her degree while raising four children.

Tom McBride spoke of his battle with drug abuse and praised his wife's love and support.

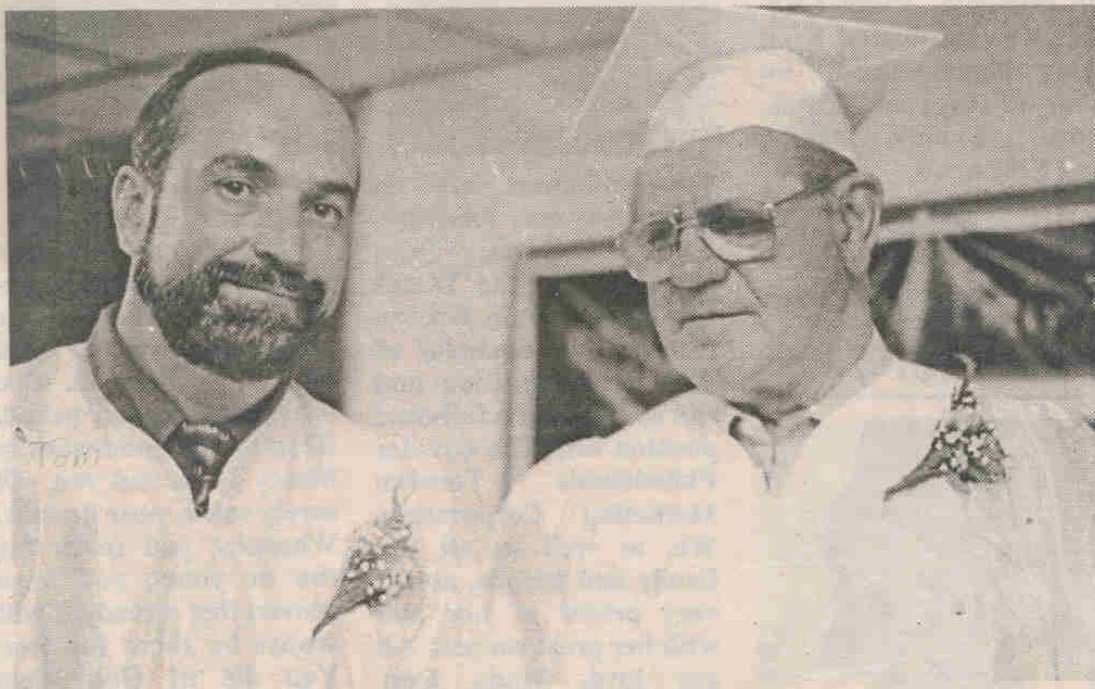
All praised CLC teachers Juli Case, Christine Houck, Jennifer Kacini and social worker Terry Banford.

Karen E. Quinones Miller, author of *Satin Doll*, was guest speaker. Miller worked her way from back-office secretary at *The Daily News* to a *Philadelphia Inquirer* writer to publisher and author of the best-selling novel that sold 24,000 copies in ten months.

CLC's Executive Director, Jean L. Fleschute, honored this year's

graduates: Marta Acevedo, Philippe Chung, Maria Gabrinidis, Tom McBride, Vernetta Santos, Cass Tancredi, Stan Teska, Mercedes Velles, Carol Whitworth and Lou Wojciechowski.

CLC is offering free summer GED preparation and Adult Basic Education classes. Call 215-426-7940 for more information. The fall schedule will be available after August 30.



CLC students Tom McBride (left) and Lou Wojciechowski wait in anticipation of the Community Learning Center Graduation 2002 celebration honoring the achievement of their GEDs.