

# PHELPS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

# News and Notes

Nov—Dec 2006

Now on the web at <http://www.phelpshospital.org/auxiliary/index.php>

EDITED by JIM REIDY

## Phelps Construction Project Looking UP!! (And down)

As many of you have, we continue to monitor the amazing progress of the construction of the new facilities at Phelps Memorial Hospital Center. The primary structure for the administrative wing (right) is fully completed. Work continues to add the facing and internal components. Who would have believed in March that such a project would be so far along. Work also continues on the new Emergency Room (bottom right). This shot was taken outside the West Wing entrance near the MRI center. The excavation outside the main entrance (center right) will eventually house the emergency room and the extensions of the first and second floor BRU units. The foundation for the new parking garage is nearly complete and pieces are already in the area awaiting assembly, like a giant Lego set.



### Welcome to our newest volunteers

Celia Baldomar, Briarcliff Manor  
Elaine Jackson, Tarrytown  
Susan Guida, Croton-on-Hudson  
Judy Burke, Sleepy Hollow  
Rachel Bondi, Monsey

### The Auxiliary welcomes the following new members who have joined our illustrious group

Celia Baldomar, Lionel Goetz, Kaveh and  
Chandler Khosrowshahi, Arthur Schmidt



## GIFT SHOP LOBBY SALES

### NOVEMBER

WED.	11/01	TUPPERWARE
THURS	11/02	EXILE CD'S
FRI	11/03	SILVER DREAMS JEWELRY
THURS	11/09	ECHO LINENS
MON	11/13	SOCK EXCHANGE
FRI	11/17	ACTIVEWEAR PLUS
TUES	11/21	SPORTS MEMORABILIA
MON	11/27	AS SEEN ON T.V.
THURS	11/30	LEATHER OUTLET

### DECEMBER

FRI	12/01	CLASSAY KARAT JEWELRY
MON	12/04	L. WETZEL BEADED JEWELRY
TUES	12/05	SILVER DREAMS JEWELRY
WED	12/06	RAINBOW ENTERPRISES ENGRAVABLES
THURS	12/07	MELVIA SPORTSWEAR
FRI	12/08	EXILE CD'S
MON	12/11	ART EVENTS
THURS	12/14	SAVE ON SOCKS
FRI	12/15	D & D JEWELRY
FRI	12/22	GAMES & CANDLES



### Bake & Craft Sale

The Auxiliary had an extremely successful bake & craft sale on Oct 5<sup>th</sup>. We made over \$1100 for the Auxiliary, and it took a lot of hard

work for those that participated.

Now for those of you who have read my bake sale reports in previous issues, you may remember me mentioning that Al Saias is in charge of the money and he seemed at times not to be putting it all in the box. Well, he and Doris are driving around in a new car and I'm wondering where that money came from. Not only that, but Andy Grass, who helps Al with the money was also talking about buying a new car. Are we missing something here?

It's amazing - Doris Saias come in with six boxes full of crafts, sells a ton of them, but still goes home with six boxes full of crafts! Diana Grass's daughter baked another superb cheesecake.

Betty Albertson, our co 1<sup>st</sup> VP, was in charge of this sale and worked setting up, selling, and merchandising the baked goods. Marguerite Klein came early and stayed late and even Jim Chalmers was a show, no show, and then a show again. Muriel Ruchti, Joan Kent, and Helen Chanowsky all gained about five pounds each eating the "oh look a broken one" cookies (we know who broke them, don't we ladies).

We expect to have a holiday bake & craft sale in early December, so start preparing to help us.



### CHECK YOUR MEDICATIONS CAREFULLY...

### THIS COULD HAPPEN TO YOU!

My husband and I take several different medications. We each divide them into a compartment pill box. They all come from the same pharmacy and are in similar containers. When we were putting these medications into the pill box, we accidentally placed a supply of *my* pills into my husband's compartment. The medication was a blood thinner, Coumadin. Little did we know how this mistake would affect him. He began to suffer from extreme fatigue which was most unusual for a very active man. We went to the doctor and he was hospitalized immediately, suffering from internal bleeding. The doctors were puzzled – what was the cause of the bleeding and why wasn't the blood coagulating?

I spoke with my son, a physician, who was aware of the different medications my husband and I were taking, and suggested that we must have somehow mixed them up. I decided to check my husband's pill container. I discovered my Coumadin in his container. For over one month he had mistakenly taken this pill, plus an aspirin every day; the pills are similar in shape. The doctors now knew the cause of the blood problems. My husband was very close to death, but after six blood transfusions, platelet transfusions and vitamins K and D, his life was saved. I now mark each of my prescription bottles with a large red "X" to distinguish my pills from his.

I submit this to remind everyone to check your pills. Medication good for one person can be poison to another.

Sincerely,  
A member of Phelps Auxiliary.

### Valet Parking

With all the construction at the hospital, parking places remain at a premium. However, for the past year or so, Mr. Safian has instituted a free Valet Parking program both at the main entrance to the hospital and at the 777 Medical Building.

The men are courteous, prompt, and willing to help in any way they can, so take advantage of this improvement. It is a free service (but tipping is permitted if you feel the service was good).

Sometime next June, our new 750 space parking garage will open, but until then, our parking attendants will be there to help.





## President's Message

*Jim Goldsmith, President*

We recently had a very successful bake and craft sale as mentioned in another part of this newsletter, but its success came from a lot of craft sales and the hard work of a select few who continually volunteer to help at these functions. It did not come primarily from baked goods which is a shame. Why? It is because we lacked the support of the general membership to bake for us and provide items to sell.

I hate to sound like a broken record, but the truth of the matter is that with almost four hundred members of the Auxiliary, there is a nucleus of about twenty members who do all the work. Quite honestly, we have been carrying the Auxiliary for a long time now and need some of the rest of the three hundred and fifty members to contribute to the fund raising efforts. You can bake for us, volunteer for us, carry a position on the Board, have an opportunity to have a say in the running of the Auxiliary. Comments about how it's always "the same group" have been heard fairly regularly. It's always the same group because no one else steps up to help.

The job of running the Auxiliary or holding various Executive positions on the Board is not that time consuming, so to say you don't have time is not an excuse. Being on the Auxiliary Board gives you a terrific insight into the workings of Phelps, a chance to be involved in the projects that Phelps is undertaking, the opportunity to meet wonderful new people and to help the Auxiliary grow and continue.

There will be important Board positions opening up this April (President, Co 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, to name a couple) and the chance for anyone to lead.

## Pam's Corner

*By Pam Cardozo*



### Volunteer Health Assessments

We recently sent out letters to all our volunteers with a reminder about the annual health assessment requirement. In order to be compliant with JCAHO (Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations), all volunteers must have a current Health Assessment on file. Please contact the Volunteer Office, 366-3170, to check your due date.

### Alert Code Cards

We have posted a reminder on the touch-screen computer for all volunteers to pick up new Alert Code Cards, to be attached to their IDs. If you missed the reminder, please request a new card from the Volunteer Office.



### Good Hand Hygiene

"Hand-washing is the single most important way of preventing the spread of infection."

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**"We must be the change we wish to see in the world."**

*Ghandi*



### Recruitment

We are looking for more volunteers – please spread the word! If you have any friends or family who might be interested in volunteering at

Phelps for only four hours a week, please have them call the Volunteer Office at 914/366-3170 for an appointment – we'd love to meet them!

### Fire Response Plan

On November 1<sup>st</sup> Phelps will be implementing an upgraded fire alarm system. All volunteers, in addition to employees, must be in-serviced and special classes have been made available for our volunteers. This is a mandatory in-service for all volunteers who work in the hospital.



### 2006 National Patient Safety Goals

Three of the goals directly affect all volunteers. One is to improve the accuracy of patient identification by using two patient identifiers. This affects all our Transport volunteers. The second is to improve the effectiveness of communication among care-givers. This is important to all volunteers who come into contact with patients and families. The third goal is to reduce the risk of patient harm resulting from falls. This, again, impacts Transport, Patient Representatives and Silver Spoons volunteers. Patients wearing orange wrist bands identify them as high risk for falling, as does an orange magnet outside the patient's room. Locking the brakes, putting up side rails and applying seat belts are all other ways to prevent falls.

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**Champagne Ball Lottery Winners**

Judge Andy Grass was called upon this year to pull the entrants to this year's lottery for the Champagne Ball on Saturday, October 21 at Trump International Golf and Country Club.

Winners were: Cynthia Chesner, Nancy and Victor Eichorn, Lionel Goetz and Bunny Kantor, Sylvia Krell, Anne and Robert Obuck, Rose Marie Parisi, and Fina Randazzo.

Congratulations to all the winners, and for those not pulled, better luck next year!

**Champagne Ball 2006**

Under the backdrop of a gorgeous night, the annual Phelps Champagne Ball was held for the first time at Trump International in Briarcliff Manor.

A record setting four hundred twenty guests attended the ball which honored Connie and John Curran and Dr. Ray Mutter. Both honorees are members of your Auxiliary.

Table eighteen was where one found this years lucky lottery winners who all seemed to be having a great time.



The Auxiliary Table at the Champagne Ball



Donna Goldsmith with Mike Bennett, of WHUD 100.7 FM

The food was plentiful and excellent, and the band kept the dance floor crowded. Mike Bennett of "Mike & Casey" the morning drive show on WHUD 100.7 FM was the auctioneer, which raised over \$50,000 for the hospital.

For those of you who did not enter the lottery, there's always next year. You can't win it if you're not in it!

**In Memoriam**

**Robert M. Sack**

We offer our sincerest condolences to Lee Sack, Bob's wife, and his family. Bob passed away on October 2, 2006 at 79 years of age.

Bob worked at Phelps as a volunteer in Errands and Transport.

**Holiday Party**

The annual Auxiliary Holiday party will be held at the James House on December 6<sup>th</sup> starting at 4 PM.

Admission charge will be one new unwrapped present and/or canned food which we can distribute to the needy in the area.

There will be wine, soft drinks, light food and fun, so plan to be there and join the festivities.

As usual, we will need volunteers to help set up, take down, tend bar and generally make all feel welcome. You can call 366-3170, or sign up in the volunteer office.

**News and Notes**

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**\*\* Photos courtesy of Jim Goldsmith\*\***

News and Notes is published by the Phelps Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, Sleepy Hollow, NY 10591. Contributions, comments and suggestions are welcome.

Please call the Volunteer Office at  
**(914) 366-3170.**



**We are looking for YOU..**

The newsletter committee is always looking for people to help out with writing articles and bringing in fresh ideas. If you'd like to be a part, please contact Jim Reidy at (914) 271-5403.