

Lifetime

Winter 2006

Matter of Taste 2 Attracts Hundreds



Seventeen of Westchester County's top restaurants donated expertise and food to the agency's second annual gourmet gala.



Special honorees William and Esther Frishman with Westchester Arc Executive Director Ric Swierat.

Nearly 300 guests sampled signature dishes from 17 of Westchester County's top restaurants on November 2 at "A Matter of Taste 2." Held at the Westchester Country Club, the event raised over \$85,000, as people of goodwill nibbled on braised rib ravioli, mascarpone polenta and tables full of other gourmet offerings. Dishes were complemented by over 40 wines from the world over. Visits to a chocolate "dipping fountain" were another popular self-indulgence.

All food, wine and culinary talent were donated by local entrepreneurs committed to helping children and adults with developmental disabilities lead lives characterized by dignity and opportunity. (See separate listing of participating businesses.)

The evening's guests of honor, William and Esther Frishman of Scars-

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From Our President

Mohan Mehra

A recent study by The Nonprofit Sector reported that 44 percent of adults in the United States—84 million—volunteer with a formal organization. They average just over 24 hours per month of volunteer time.

How important are volunteers to Westchester Arc? Families built this agency so that their children could have the best opportunity to develop their skills and realize their potential.

In 1949, Ann Greenberg advertised in the *New York Post* for playmates for her child. Inge Childs and Justin Israel sold raffle tickets to raise funds during the agency's early years. Rose Simon helped open our first school in Pelham. Emily Kingsley and Barbara Levitz formed a support group for families having children with Down syndrome. Ann Nehrbauer continues today to advocate for individuals released from Willowbrook.

These generous volunteers and countless others have given of their time to make a real difference. Indeed, it has been often said that NYSARC and its chapters comprise one of the oldest, most successful family-led organizations in the country.

Due to financial pressures, today's families increasingly have two wage earners. This reduces the time available for volunteer activities, yet organizations such as ours need volunteer energy and creativity to achieve our mission. How can you volunteer your time? There are at least two ways.

First, help us better serve children and adults with developmental disabilities. Be

an aide at The Children's School in Hawthorne. Help out at one of our Sibshops, during which the brothers and sisters of people with disabilities share their experiences. Befriend one of the residents in our group homes. Accompany him or her to a store, movie, sporting event or meal in a local restaurant. Teach him or her a skill. There are lots of opportunities. If you or a family member are interested, please reach out to Cassandra Leary, cleary@westchesterarc.org.

Another way to help Westchester Arc is to join one of the many board committees providing oversight of our operations or to assist in fundraising. There are committees for residential services, the pre-school, employment services, fundraising, finance, human resources, marketing and more. This is a great way to offer us the benefit of your skills. We are always looking for people to help on these committees, and through serving, you'll learn more about the agency. Often, committee members go on to become board members and take on an even greater volunteer role. If you have an interest, please contact me (mmehra@aol.com) or Ric Swierat, our executive director (rswierat@westchesterarc.org).

As Dr. Johnetta Coles, former president of Spelman College, said, "The ultimate expression of generosity is not giving what you have, but in giving of who you are." ■

Save the Date!!!
Family Resource Day
March 12, 2006
 Sponsored by Westchester Arc and JCC of Mid-Westchester
 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
 Contact:
 Nancy Succoso,
 914-428-8330, ext. 3319,
 or
 Charley Moskowitz,
 914-472-3300, ext. 361



From Our Executive Director

Richard P. Swierat
Richard P. Swierat

Our society is aging. We hear that every day. And when we hear it, many of us reflect on our personal situations, on the needs of our parents and other relatives and on our own retirement. People with developmental disabilities are aging, too, and special issues accompany this demographic reality.

It is unclear how many people with developmental disabilities over 60 years of age are living in the United States, with current estimates ranging from 600,000 to 1.6 million. The truth is that many of the people with developmental disabilities in this age group have never been identified. We do know, though, that this population is growing and could be several million strong by 2030.

There was a time when people with developmental disabilities were not represented in the over-60 age group, but during the past 40 years, medical care and community programs have provided more intensive and responsive service. Consequently the percentage of people with developmental disabilities who are over 60 is now similar to that in the general population.

We estimate that slightly over 10 percent of Westchester Arc's residential consumers are over 60. A more disturbing fact is that eight percent of the adults participating in our day services are living at home with family, often their parents. Organizations such as Westchester Arc must heed this phenomenon, and our strategic plan addresses the need to provide appropriate services.

During the past year, we have renovated a number of our residences to increase accessibility. New homes are being planned to accommodate more intensive medical care. Community partnerships

are being developed to provide more choice to the over-60 population. Staff are being trained in issues relating to healthcare, spirituality, age-appropriate programming and more.

But this is not enough. We need to attend to the families who are still providing direct care for their aging loved ones with developmental disabilities. These families are at risk because the caregivers themselves are often aging. We need to develop supports and residential opportunities in order to avoid a crisis.

Westchester Arc is not alone. Over the past few years, The Arc of the U.S. and other NYSARC chapters have also been focusing on these issues. We are reaching out to these statewide and national resources in order to identify best practices. You will be hearing more about these efforts during the next few years. As the Baby Boomers age, we will face continuing challenges relating to the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities, for our parents and for ourselves. ■

Respite House Re-Opens



The newly renovated Respite House.

Sixty-five guests attended a December 3 house-warming that marked the re-opening of Westchester Arc's Respite House in Thornwood, which had undergone a six-month renovation.

"Many people depend on respite when their parents or other family members take a well-deserved break," says Dave Gasparri, director of recreational and independent living services. "It's our goal to make our guests feel safe and comfortable here."

To support that goal, Westchester Arc added two new rooms, a den and an office. The bathrooms and kitchen were updated with new floors, furniture, lighting and appliances and were made more wheelchair-accessible.

"Many people commented on how warm and inviting the house is now," continues Dave. "People are definitely more enthusiastic about staying here."

The renovations have also created accommodations for an additional guest—bringing to six the number of individuals Respite House can serve at one time. ■



BEST PRACTICE AWARDS HIGHLIGHT EXCELLENCE

The agency's Best Practice Awards, presented twice a year, recognize outstanding delivery of our promise to be "caring, innovative and professional." The latest winners are:

First Prize - **Maria Lagman**, employment specialist, for developing community volunteer opportunities to complement work center activities. Individuals who had never before successfully worked within the community became interested in a local food pantry, and Maria established a successful partnership. "Consumers like helping others rather than being helped," she says. (See related story, below.)

Second Prize - **Park Circle residential staff**, for providing comfort, companionship and fun to a resident during the last days of his life. In addition to accompanying the resident on medical appointments, staff donated their free time to fill his hospital room with favorite photographs, posters and music. They went to great lengths to help him fulfill

his emotional needs and desires and even took him on a road trip so that he could attend a favorite staff person's wedding.

Third Prize - **Inverness residential staff**, for completing intensive medical training that enabled a longtime resident to remain at home. The consumer had developed a significant health problem that necessitated his being moved to a nursing home while staff became certified in the use of feeding tube technology. They worked extra shifts to be able to bring the resident home quickly. The resulting curriculum can be used to train staff throughout the agency.

Fourth Prize - **Miguel Merced**, supervisor, for developing a program through which day hab participants donate aluminum snap tops to local causes.

The snap tops do not affect the redemption value collected by the agency's Mount Kisco recycling center, and they can be redeemed by other organizations to offset medical costs and support other worthwhile efforts. "We recycle three to four million cans each year," says Miguel, "and those little tops can do so much good." The activity has also increased the workers' self-esteem and morale.

Fifth Prize - **Tasha Ross**, assistant community instructor, **Daryl Moss**, community specialist, **Shirley Byrd**, assistant community instructor, for organizing a Winter Carnival for the Yonkers day hab program. Consumers were actively involved in the planning, helping to create flyers and shopping for decorations. They are reportedly eager to repeat the event.

Food For Thought: Pre-Voc Volunteers



Self-advocates decided to volunteer at a local food pantry

Last July, when individuals in the Yonkers pre-vocational program desired work in the community, employment spe-

cialist Maria Lagman took action. Now she escorts 12 individuals each week to a food pantry run by the Yonkers Community Action Program (YCAP), where they have volunteered to unpack boxes, bag groceries and assist with home deliveries.

"This project was a direct response to individual needs," she comments. "Many of these folks hadn't successfully worked in the community and really wanted to give it another try. We brainstormed ideas and they suggested a food pantry, which I was happy to support. Volunteering for YCAP has provided an opportunity for them to build on the skills they've learned in the pre-vocational program and gain valuable

life experience."

Volunteers have also increased their self-confidence and feel more connected to the community. On the job, they are outgoing and eager to work. During December, they spent up to four days a week at YCAP. They even made special holiday ornaments and distributed them to senior citizens in the community.

"I don't know what we would do without our volunteers from Westchester Arc," comments Penny Pope, YCAP program director. "They are hardworking, reliable, friendly and a real pleasure to be around. I would recommend their services to everyone."

Agency Expands Sibling Support

Westchester Arc plans to expand Sibshops— support groups that previously focused on children who have siblings with disabilities— to include sessions for adults. The agency, in partnership with the JCC (Jewish Community Center) of Mid-Westchester, will sponsor four sessions this year. Funding was made possible by a \$10,000 grant from the Westchester Community Foundation, a non-profit community endowment for the benefit of Westchester residents.

Sibshops give individuals the chance to freely share thoughts, concerns and experiences in a relaxed environment. Westchester Arc became involved with the program in 2003 under the guidance of its creator, Don Meyer, director of the Sibling Support Project at The Arc of the U.S.

“Providing family supports has always been one of Westchester Arc’s top priorities,” comments Nancy Suosso, assistant executive director. “Over the last few years, there has been a growing need for adult sibling support services. Thanks to the generosity of the Westchester Community Foundation and our partnership with JCC, Westchester Arc can provide these services.”

In preparation for the expansion, representatives from Westchester Arc attended “Many Voices,” an adult sibling conference sponsored by NYSACRA (New York State Association for Community and Residential Agencies) on November 19 in Fishkill. Westchester Arc Foundation President Katherine Wilson Conroy, Esq., Westchester Arc legal counsel Lawrence Faulkner, Esq., and Westchester Arc board member Sheryl Frishman, Esq., conducted a workshop on how to establish guardianship rights, create trusts to pay for services and obtain legal proxies to make important healthcare decisions for siblings with disabilities.

In Memoriam: Board Member Marshall Goldman



The board of directors, staff and entire Westchester Arc community mourn the passing of board member Marshall Goldman. Marshall was a respected attorney, dedicated family man and strong advocate for people with developmental disabilities. He is described by those closest to him as a man filled with a great passion and willingness to help those in need.

Marshall and his wife, Jessica, came to Westchester Arc in search of services for their son, Andrew, and through the years, they became great friends of the agency. They attended fundraisers. Jessica tutored adults with developmental disabilities in Mount Kisco. And despite a demanding legal schedule, Marshall found time to join Westchester Arc’s board of directors and guardianship committee in 2001.

“There were days when he would work all day, stop home for a quick dinner, then run off to a meeting at Westchester Arc,” recalls Jessica. “He was so dedicated to the agency’s cause.”

Driven by a desire to help his son live independently in the community, Marshall partnered with friend John

Maltby to launch “A Home of Your Own,” an innovative approach to the lack of housing for people with disabilities. Marshall and John brought together people with disabilities who were interested in living in the community and helped them combine their resources to purchase a home and hire support staff.

“Marshall had a profound sense of fairness to individuals with developmental disabilities,” comments John. “He was determined to provide them with a better quality of life and worked extremely hard to make it so. He was a wonderful companion in arms and I really miss him. If you want to sum Marshall up, he was truly an advocate in the best sense of the word, in all aspects of his life.”

Though “A Home of Your Own” faced social and political opposition, Marshall’s efforts were tireless. He spent long hours calculating how the project would, in actuality, save the government money, then carried his findings to state officials. Today, Andrew and several friends live in their own home.

“Andrew has become a lot more independent since moving into the house,” says his mom. “He loves living there and really gets along with his housemates and staff. They’ve become one happy family. Marshall always said seeing Andrew happy was the biggest reward.”

“Marshall was a visionary. His dedication to the rights of people with disabilities has created new opportunities, shattered stereotypes and paved the way for social change,” comments Westchester Arc Executive Director, Ric Swierat. “He had wisdom, kindness and compassion. Marshall’s accomplishments continue to inspire us, and he will always remain in our hearts.” ■



From The Foundation

Anne Sweazey
Anne Sweazey
Executive Director

As we enter 2006 and make plans for the future, there is much to share with you. This year, we will be rolling out two campaigns, an annual campaign and a capital campaign. Part of the annual campaign is a full schedule of special events for 2006. These include our *Legacy of Love* dinner this spring; *Golfing for Kids* on June 6; the *MBIA Invitational Golf and Tennis Tournament* on September 18; *Tour de Bresnan* from June 2 to 4; the “*Party for Our Best Friends*” at the Children’s School on May 4, and our annual party. We will send more detail on each of these events throughout the year.

Also part of our annual campaign are several direct mail projects which are aimed at increasing our donor and membership

base. And, of course, there are about 30 foundation and corporate friends who regularly give grants in response to proposals.

We are currently in the first phase, the “leadership” phase, of a capital campaign, the first in the history of Westchester Arc. An outstanding group of volunteers make up the campaign steering committee. The committee is led by two co-chairs, Beth Beck and Mitch Benerofe. Joining them as members of the committee are Katharine Conroy, Joe Faber, Esther Frishman, Justin Israel, Anne Majsak, Mohan Mehra, Renee Simons and Susan Walker. In my experience, the hardest part of any capital campaign is attracting strong volunteers who will take responsibility for conducting a successful campaign. We are fortunate beyond measure with this team.

We are also privileged to have Tim Hogen as campaign consultant. Tim has more than 25 years of experience and has designed and managed capital campaigns which have raised over \$600,000,000 for his client organizations.

The goal for our campaign is \$7.5 million, \$5.5 million of which will be earmarked for construction of a new facility in Hawthorne, New York. For the past 45 years, Westchester Arc has delivered successful, recognized services from its current headquarters, an old munitions factory in White Plains. The current building has challenged the agency’s ability to continue to provide safe and effective services. The new location will provide more functionally appropriate space and a welcoming environment to our consumers and families.

The remaining \$2 million to be raised by the campaign will be used to create a Fund for the Future that will ensure the ongoing financial viability Westchester Arc services that are vulnerable due to insufficient—or non-existent—government funding. In these unpredictable economic times, we must create a long-term funding strategy that will support these programs.

You will be hearing more about all these plans as 2006 unfolds. As always, we thank you for your support. ■

Staff Recognized for Longtime Service



Elyse Fowler and Patti Corbi were among 100 staff members honored.

One hundred Westchester Arc employees were honored for their longtime service—between five and 30 years—at Staff Recognition Night, held on December 13 at the Crowne Plaza, White Plains. The night’s festivities included dinner, a chocolate fountain and presentation of awards.

“There are many reasons I’ve stayed at Westchester Arc for so long,” comments Elyse Fowler, director of individual giving, recognized for 15 years of service. “The great friendships I’ve made, flexible hours, terrific benefits and, of course, the agency’s cause, make it really easy to come to work every day.”

Of special note, Steven Cancel, human resource generalist, and Sandra Natoo, residential employment coordinator, received the Diversity Leadership Award for their commitment to celebrating our employees’ cultural richness. Ketechia Jack-Robinson, assistant residence manager, was presented with the John Bodnar Scholarship, a \$1,000 grant for educational advancement.

Local Businesses Give Generously to A Matter of Taste 2

The following restaurants, wine purveyors and other local businesses donated food, wine and skills to our gourmet event.

An America Bistro

Mike Cassarella

Club Chefs of Westchester

Eastchester Fish Gourmet

Emilio Ristorante

Equus

First Class Catering

Great American Barbeque

Harry's of Hartsdale

Longfords Own-Made Ice-cream

MacMenamin's Grill & ChefWorks

RG Catering

Riveria Bakehouse

Solera on Hudson

Tramonto Restaurant

Underhill's Crossing

Westchester Country Club

Zuppa Restaurant and Lounge

Matter of Taste 2 Attracts Hundreds

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(From left) Dean Lombardo, silent auction co-Chair, with Matter of Taste 2 Chairmen Steven Palm, Joseph Manzi and Robert Kasara.

dale, were presented with artwork by an individual with disabilities. Dr. William Frishman, a world-renowned cardiologist, spoke of being influenced by the "Great Society" of the Sixties, a time when Medicaid was established and people with developmental disabilities benefited from the belief that "no one should be left behind." "You in this room are helping to continue that quest," he told attendees.

Silent auction favorites included a trip to Disney World, an iPod™ nano, tickets to the Broadway production of *The Odd*

Couple, a copy of *Dean and Me*, autographed by Jerry Lewis, and a weekend at Tarrytown's Castle on the Hudson. Work by an artist with developmental disabilities was also on offer.

Waiters with developmental disabilities helped with the serving, and more than a few guests commented on their professionalism. Volunteers with developmental disabilities also helped to sell raffle tickets for a \$1000 cash prize, flat screen TV and digital camera. ■

World Class Violinist Honors People with Disabilities



Maestro Ughi performs in honor of people with developmental disabilities.

Driven by a desire to help children and adults with developmental disabilities, internationally acclaimed violinist Uto Ughi gave a rare United States performance on November 13. Held at the Performing Arts Center in Purchase, New York, "Homage to Umbria" raised \$100,000 for the Westchester Arc Foundation and paid tribute to Americans of Italian origin. The concert was organized by the Italian prime minister's office and sponsored by various Italian corporations.

A uniquely talented musician, Uto Ughi gave his first concert at the age of seven. He went on to train with renowned violinist George Enescu and began touring the world at the age of 12. Mr. Ughi has played with the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony Orchestra and The Rome Philharmonics; is founder of the Homage to Venice festival, and artistic advisor to the Homage to Umbria project.

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Self-Advocates Speak Out



Self-advocates Scott Fowler and Mitchell Levitz inspire agency staff.

“I own my own home, my own business, my own everything,” declares Scott Fowler, self-advocate, to staffers attending a Westchester Arc direct care retreat. “The one thing I want you to get out of this meeting is people with disabilities have wants and desires just like you. And like you, we are very capable of achieving them.”

Scott was joined by fellow self-advocate and author, Mitchell Levitz. During their presentation, they explained how self-advocacy—individuals with disabilities expressing their needs on their own

behalf—has become key to empowerment and inclusion. They also discussed shattering stereotypes, gaining respect, living in the community and the role of direct care workers in self-advocacy.

“We are people first, disability second,” states Mitchell. “Some may think people with disabilities shouldn’t live or work in the community, but it’s our goal as self-advocates to show them that we can be respected neighbors and model employees. Direct care workers can help support this goal by taking an interest

and getting involved in our lives.”

Westchester Arc has established a board-level customer service committee, consisting of 17 self-advocates whose opinions directly affect the agency’s plans and operations. “Self-advocacy is a major part of Westchester Arc’s strategic plan,” explains Executive Director Ric Swierat. “The agency is extremely proud of all that self-advocates have accomplished and will continue to support them every step of the way.”

World Class Violinist Honors People with Disabilities

Continued from page 7

His recordings of Beethoven, Brahms, Mozart, Viotti and Vivaldi have received international praise.

“It was a concert that left both the audience and the performer inspired,” comments Westchester Arc Foundation Executive Director Anne Sweazey. “During the show, Maestro Ughi smiled and made eye contact with an audience member with a disability, who was in tears. Seeing two people with different life experiences share such a moment was

very moving.”

Westchester Arc got involved with the concert through Mary Ann Dantin, an agency supporter and mother of a child with a disability. A little over a year ago, Ms. Dantin called Westchester Arc looking for specialized services for her child and was referred to PACDS (Parents Assistance Committee on Down Syndrome).

“PACDS made my family feel so welcome. They helped us locate doctors,

schools and other community resources,” she comments. “Chairperson Anne Majsak and PACDS made staying in Westchester a possibility.”

Grateful for her involvement with PACDS, Ms. Dantin and husband Mauro Masi, president of the “Homage to Umbria,” chose Westchester Arc to receive the concert’s proceeds.

“We couldn’t think of a more worthwhile cause,” she concludes. ■

Westchester Arc Celebrates the Holidays



Agency-wide, Westchester Arc got into the holiday spirit: Volunteers in the Northern League sponsored a celebration at the Ann Manzi Center in Mount Kisco, and guardianship held its annual party at the Westchester Marriott in Tarrytown. Day habilitation held a holiday cookie contest that brought out consumers' creativity, while successful food and toy drives collected goods for local families in need.

Westco Honors Ric Swierat



Westco Productions has honored Ric Swierat, Westchester Arc's executive director, for bringing the performing arts to children and young adults with disabilities. Westco paid tribute to Ric at the theater company's 26th anniversary gala, held on October 29th at Antun's of Westchester.

Westchester Arc and Westco have enjoyed a longtime, creative partnership. Recent collaborations have included Echo OnStage and The Magic To Do Players, a musical theater workshop for children with developmental disabilities. Through Echo OnStage, participants build self-esteem, muscle tone and verbal skills, while learning dance numbers. In The Magic to Do Players, children strengthen memories and motor skills while acting, dancing and singing.

"A few years back, there was little opportunity for young people with disabilities to break into live theater. Ric helped change all that," notes Susan Katz, Westco's executive director. "Through his appreciation of the performing arts and willingness to provide new services, Ric has helped establish groundbreaking programs."

Hitting the Right Notes:

Pre-Schoolers Learn through Music



Music helps pre-schoolers build language and social skills.

Youngsters at The Children's School's Hawthorne location are strengthening their memories, as well as their language and social skills, through the music of volunteer Marcia Presser. The talented organ-

ist visits the school each Thursday, performing *Old MacDonald*, *Happy and You Know It*, *The Goodbye Song* and other favorites. Singing and dancing are encour-

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Children's School Opens New Inclusion Class



Jacques V. with teachers Melissa Roselle (left) and Gretchen Van Decar.

The Uriah Hill Junior Early Childhood Center in Peekskill is the newest community pre-school to open an inclusion class sponsored by The Children's School for Early Development. The Children's School now offers 18 inclusion classes throughout the county. Peekskill is the third public school district to

partner with The Children's School, following an example set by the Ossining District in 2004 and Lakeland School Districts in 2003.

In-community classes enable students with disabilities to imitate their typically developing classmates in order to develop speech and behavior patterns. In turn,

their typically developing classmates gain a better understanding of individual differences. All students benefit from the increased staffing provided by The Children's School—state-certified teachers with graduate degrees, as well as psychologists, social workers, and speech, occupational and physical therapists.

Prior to entering the Peekskill class, Jacques V. had trouble focusing and found it difficult to stay still. After three months at Uriah Hill, he could hold himself up and sit while listening to a story.

"I was very hesitant about sending my son to the inclusion program, but my feelings have changed drastically,"

says his mom, Louise. "I am extremely pleased with the teachers and the program. Every day Jacques goes to school, I know he is entering a warm, safe environment. After he graduates, we will look back on the class with fond memories. I would recommend the program hands down to anyone." ■

Hitting the Right Notes:

Continued from page 9

aged, and yes, she even takes requests.

A professional musician for over 25 years, Marcia began volunteering at The Children's School eight years ago as a one-to-one tutor. She used music to augment her teaching, which helped her students retain more information. Impressed by Marcia's abilities, the pre-school asked

her to perform for each class.

"Marcia brings great energy and enthusiasm to the classroom," notes Karen Valdez, social worker. "She provides students with an outlet to have fun and be creative, while encouraging socialization. The Children's School is extremely grateful for her efforts."

"Music is meant to be shared, and I can't think of a better audience to share it with," comments Marcia. "It brings me great joy to see a child remembering a song lyric or dancing along to the music. Some of the happiest moments of my life have been spent at The Children's School." ■

Tributes

The following tribute donations were received between July 19, 2005, and January 13, 2006.

IN MEMORY OF THOMAS ABINANTI, SR.
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Alterbaum
Ms. Irene Angelidakis
Ms. Jeannette Buffa
Mr. Geoffrey Kent
Lifflander & Reich LLP
Mr. Matthew L. Lifflander
Ms. Clare Longo
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Presser
Sleepy Hollow High School
Ms. Diane Irmle
Mr. and Mrs. Carl J. Stevens
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Swierat

IN MEMORY OF GUIC BALSECA
Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Griffin

IN MEMORY OF EMMA LEE DEGASPERIS
Ms. Patricia M. DiTullio

IN MEMORY OF BENNY DELL'OLIO
Ms. Camille R. Tomao

IN MEMORY OF BRETTE AND FLOYD HILL
Ms. Charmaine Thomas

IN MEMORY OF SARA JANE HILLMAN
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hillman

IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL IAMARTINO
Ms. Diane Iamartino

IN MEMORY OF CHARLES KLEINER
Ms. Elinor Brown

IN MEMORY OF PHYLLIS QUESAL
Mr. and Mrs. Roy Holbeck
Jewish Communal Fund
Mr. Harold R. Handler
Mr. and Mrs. Steven A. Mestman
Ms. Edith M. Novack Esq.
Ms. Bianca Pasternack
Mr. Glen Richardson and
Ms. Sharon R. Cohnay
Ms. Leah Schwartz
Sinnott Management Co.
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Sinnott

IN MEMORY OF DANIEL SULLIVAN
Daniel Sullivan AIA, Architect
Mr. Daniel Sullivan

IN HONOR OF THE TEACHING STAFF AT THE CHILDREN'S SCHOOL FOR EARLY DEVELOPMENT
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Ward

IN HONOR OF KATHARINE AND JACK CONROY
Ms. Lauren Lindstrom

IN HONOR OF KATHERINE WILSON CONROY
Mr. Christopher R. Conroy and Ms. Lisa Lindstrom

IN HONOR OF MARY ANN DANTIN
Mr. and Mrs. David G. Samuels

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM AND ESTER FRISHMAN
Mr. Gary Paul Wormser MD

IN HONOR OF JONATHAN AND DANA GOTTSEGEN
Gottsegen Family Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan P. Gottsegen

IN HONOR OF HERALD AND ANABEL HEFFLER
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Drogy
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Levitz

IN HONOR OF EMILY KINGSLEY
Mr. Joshua Perl and
Ms. Lucy Oakley

IN HONOR OF JASON KINGSLEY
Dr. Gladys Rashkoff

IN HONOR OF JEFF KIRSCHNER
Ms. Maris Beckerman &
Mr. Charles Strouchler

IN HONOR OF MICHELLE NEIDER'S BAT MITZVAH
Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Neider

IN HONOR OF DOUGLAS NICHOLS
Mr. Douglas S. Nichols

IN HONOR OF NOLAN R. SPTIZER
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Chodkowski
Mr. Richard J. Dalton
Mrs. Robert Defeo
Ms. Christine M. Falco
Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Ferris
Mr. and Mrs. William D. Gregory
Horticultural Solutions
Mr. William Spitzer
Mr. Kevin C. Kenney
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Liebert
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Martin
Mr. and Mrs. William R. McAnally
Mr. and Mrs. Mary K. Newman
Ms. Tracy M. O'Connell
Mr. and Mrs. Eduardo Reyes
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Reynolds

Ms. Linda Solomos
The Healing Center at Two Titus
Mr. Matthew M. Schrier
Mr. Michael J. Valenti
Mr. Edward J. Votta
Mr. and Mrs. Peter A. Walkes
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley F. Wisla

IN HONOR OF MR. ADAM STOLER AND MRS. BARBARA KAIL
Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Grosberg

IN HONOR OF ANNE SWEAZEY
Mrs. Mary Sweazey Cowles
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Muller
Mr. George E. Sweazey

IN HONOR OF LARRY WOOD AND STEPHANIE CONOLLY'S WEDDING
Mr. and Mrs. Mark A. Alimena
Mr. and Mrs. Julian M. Bartle
Mr. and Mrs. George P. Beach II
Ms. and Mr. Paul Byrnes
Mr. Vincent J. Chiodo and
Ms. Rita M. Piazza
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Conolly
Ms. Patricia De Benedictus
Mr. and Mrs. Keith DeMoura
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen D. Ebinger
Mr. Preston L. Felton
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen J. Harrison
Mr. Leo J. Kelly and
Ms. Evelyn L. Wood
Sean and Yong Murphy
Ms. Rosalie Pell
Ms. Lori J. Scheuermann
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Taylor
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wright
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence P. Wood

IN HONOR OF MRS. ISABELLE WEXLER'S NEW GREAT GRANDDAUGHTER
Ms. Matilda Tell

IN HONOR OF RAFAEL YURO
Mr. Matthew Hall and
Ms. Lisa Hirai
Mr. Michiko Hirai

IN HONOR OF DANIEL ZUCKERMAN
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Zuckerman
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Sculco
Mr. Christopher Solomos
Ms. Michelle A. Solomos
Charles Soulias Tree Care, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick J. Whalen

Resources

Autism Depot

<http://home.ptd.net/~rjd/autism/>

The Autism Depot provides information on treatments, research organizations and books relating to autism. There are also links to helpful websites.

Resources for Children with Special Needs (RCSN)

www.resourcesnyc.org/rcsn.htm

RCSN is an independent, non-profit source of help for New York City parents of children with disabilities and the professionals who work with them. Designated by the U.S. Department of Education as a parent training and information center, RCSN offers instruction, educational advocacy and referral services.

Down Syndrome Information Network

www.down-syndrome.info/

The Down Syndrome Information Network provides news, an online library and discussion forums to families, professionals and researchers worldwide.

For more resources, please visit www.westchesterarc.org.

Calendar of Events

March 7, 2006

“My Life, My Choice” Self-Advocacy Summit

10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Hale Avenue,
White Plains, New York 10601

Contact: Cassandra Leary, 914-428-8330,
ext. 3347, cleary@westchesterarc.org.

March 12, 2006

Family Resource Day

Sponsored by Westchester Arc and
JCC of Mid-Westchester

9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Contact: Nancy Succoso, 914-428-8330,
ext. 3319, or

Charley Moskowitz, 914-472-3300,
ext. 361.

March 19, 2006

Latino Family Resource Day

12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Yonkers Riverfront Library,

1 Larkin Center, Yonkers, New York 10701

Contact: Martha Pisculli, 914-949-9300,
ext. 3142, mpisculli@westchesterarc.org.

April 2, 2006

42nd Annual Yonkers League Dinner Dance and 2006 Helping Hand Award Ceremony

1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Westchester Manor, Hastings, New York

Contact: Elyse Fowler, 914-428-8330,
ext. 3027.

April 21, 2006

Employer Recognition Breakfast

8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Westchester Marriott

Tarrytown, New York 10591

Contact: Fran Higgins, 914-428-8330,
ext. 3028, fhiggins@westchesterarc.org.

For more information on these and
other events, visit our website at
www.westchesterarc.org.

GIDDY UP! Club Echo Visits Dude Ranch



Seven individuals laced up their boots and saddles for a trip to Pine Grove Dude Ranch in Kerhonkson, New York on October 28-30. The outing was sponsored by Westchester

Arc's Club Echo, a travel program providing day, weekend and weeklong vacation opportunities to adults with developmental disabilities.

During their stay at the ranch, travelers strengthened motor and communication skills while enjoying horseback riding, campfire sing-a-longs and miniature golf. Other activities included a Halloween-themed haunted hayride and costume party.

“I love the dude ranch,” says Steven N. “It’s one of my favorite trips.” ■

The Children's School
for Early Development
5th Annual

Golfing For Kids

Benefiting Children with Autism and
other Developmental Disabilities

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

Westchester Hills Golf Club

For information, call Fran Higgins
at 914-428-8330, ext 3028
or email: fhiggins@westchesterarc.org

**Latino Family Resource Day
March 19, 2006
Bilingual Speakers**

12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Yonkers Riverfront Library,
1 Larkin Center, Yonkers, NY

Contact: Martha Pisculli, 914-949-9300,
ext. 3142, mpisculli@westchesterarc.org



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