



PULSE

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“Great Gatherings” Home and Kitchen Tour Planned for Fall 2005

by Clelia Biamonti and Mary Mokuvos, Coordinators

Planning efforts are in full swing for the **Great Gatherings Home and Kitchen Tour for 2005**. Traditionally one of the Auxiliary's main fund-raising activities, we are working hard to uphold and enhance the fine reputation established for the tour in prior years as an exciting and profitable event. With a committee of 27 energetic and enthusiastic women motivated to support Overlook in the spirit of volunteerism and community service, we are hoping to present a tour that is as interesting and exciting to patrons as it is profitable for the hospital.

With these goals in mind, one of the first things we have done is change the tour date from the spring to the fall. There are many house tours in this area for different causes held in the spring, and we felt it important to distinguish ourselves from those other events. The Overlook 2005 tour is scheduled for **Thursday October 6th, 2005**. Tour homes are located in both Summit and Short Hills. Our theme will be an "All Hallows' Eve" with homes decorated both inside and out for either Halloween or the Fall Harvest. We are hoping to add an element of fun and whimsy by having our docents dress in Halloween garb of "friendly witches"!

We are also pursuing other fund-raising efforts in conjunction with this tour. Work is in progress on a pre-tour cocktail party as well as the production of a "Program Tour Guide". Some ideas for the cocktail party include a "Masked Ball" at one of our tour homes with a few high-end silent auction items. The "Program Tour Guide" will be a booklet given to all tour ticket holders that details features of the homes, as well as all of the architects/designers/landscapers, etc... who have worked on these homes. We would offer advertisement space to these businesses, as well as to others in the community. We are hoping this will be a profitable effort for the hospital as well as a useful resource guide for our tour patrons.

We are looking forward to this event and hope to see all Twigs and Auxilians turn out to support this effort on October 6th 2005. Thank you!

From the President's desk . . .

Happy New Year! I hope you're enjoying the break between Holidays. The great thing about a New Year is it is wide open. So many opportunities to do new things and meet new people and take on new projects. I hope you are as enthusiastic about working together with the Auxiliary as I am. We have so much to look forward to. Before we do that, I want to thank everyone for their great gifts in December. While we cannot possibly mention all the good deeds you do, Summit Twig #21 and Summit Twig #3 get special mention for decorating the hospital for the holidays and providing luminaries. Also, thanks to all the Twigs who provided holiday cookies and treats for the annual Overlook staff party. The party held every year on the volunteer corridor provides food for the tummy and the soul for the hardworking staff of Overlook. Nancy Kuhn, of course, provided her guitar and great singing!



As we look forward to this year we have quite a few plans. The hospital will be celebrating its Centennial and we are looking forward to participating in the events. The Kitchen Tour will be held during the first week of October. I hope you are looking forward to getting involved with the Centennial. It will be a great opportunity for the Auxiliary to showcase its talents.

We are still focused on reducing our Emergency Room pledge, and hope that if your Twig is looking for a useful place to apply your fundraising efforts you will remember the pledge. Of course, there are also new projects on the Website www.ohaux.org. I wish all of you a great 2005 and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Kathleen L. Bleit

Thanks and Appreciation from Gift Shop Chairman

Dear Fellow Auxilians,

Reflecting upon another successful year in the Gift Shop, it is with the warmest appreciation that I thank so many of you for your continued support. It is truly an honor to be the Chair of such a remarkable Gift Shop, in which the spirit of volunteerism and service to a diverse community such as Overlook is evidenced each and every day.

I would like to thank the 38 volunteers who staff the Gift Shop, the Flower Shop, and the Gift Cart throughout the year. With countless hours of service logged, each of these volunteers serves the entire Overlook community with a warm smile and a limitless generosity of spirit, and truly brightens the day of patients, visitors and the Overlook staff. In the Flower Shop, every day, one of these talented ladies travels to the wholesale market, hand-selects the flowers for that day, and returns to the Flower Shop to create a dazzling array of fresh flower arrangements, at the most reasonable prices in town. This dedication always inspires me, and is just one of the many examples of the amazing spirit of service to Overlook that each of the Gift Shop volunteers illustrates every day.

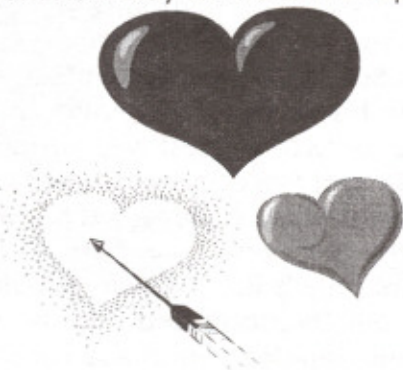
I also would like to thank our talented buyers who contribute significant amounts of their valuable time and energies to stocking the Gift Shop

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Love Is in the Air in the Gift Shop

by Liza Tulloch

Light up the face of your loved one this Valentine's Day with a stunning flower arrangement, beautiful jewelry and a thoughtful card from the Gift Shop. Place your floral order in advance by calling the Flower Shop at 908-522-2117, or choose from a variety of fresh arrangements made daily by the talented volunteers in the Flower Shop. Whatever your heart desires, you'll find a lovely selection for your sweetie this Valentine's Day at the Gift Shop!



Volunteer Help Sought in the Flower Shop

Are you a creative person looking for a rewarding volunteer commitment working with flowers? The Flower Shop is seeking dedicated trainees to work closely with existing florists.

Please call the Gift Shop at 908-522-2133 for more details.

New Scholarship Awards Process Will Benefit Both Recipients And Overlook Hospital

by Maryanne Menk, Auxiliary Scholarship Chair

The Overlook Hospital Auxiliary, through the unstinting efforts of our Twigs, was able to award scholarships totaling \$5,000 for the 2004-2005 school year. Our new approach this year has made this a particularly exciting process. Rather than give grants directly to Overlook employees already covered by two excellent Overlook Foundation and Atlantic Health Care tuition reimbursement programs, the Auxiliary took a proactive approach which will reap benefits for the recipients and the hospital as well.

In an effort to reach this goal, we turned to Union County College, the designated county institution providing a curriculum leading to a degree in Registered Nursing. Our target group was students with clearly designated financial need, or men or women returning to the work force after child-rearing years at home. The outcome met all our expectations.

Our six tuition reimbursement recipients range in age from an unmarried 24-year-old Irvington woman to a 50-year-old gentleman, a native of Nigeria with a Bachelor's Degree in Electronics and a wife and two children, who is well on his way to completing his RN degree. One award winner, a single mother of two, has just two remaining courses to complete on a journey for a degree that has spanned twenty years. All the recipients hold full or part-time jobs, most have children at home, all are excited about the prospects of becoming a nurse.

Not only is the Auxiliary providing a genuine service to these students in need, but Overlook and Atlantic Health Care are positioned to reap public relations benefits from these awards. Our Auxiliary Foundation Scholarships are noted in UCC publications, the Auxiliary has contacted each of the recipients by phone and letter, and both the Manager of Nursing Recruitment at Overlook and the Director of Recruitment at Atlantic Health Care have sent congratulatory letters inviting the recipients to consider our hospital as an employment option when their studies are complete. At a time when the need for nurses is at a critical level and recruitment has become a very costly endeavor, this is a welcome benefit for all of us.

The Union County College Financial Aid Office provides all the backup for this, and sponsors a joint awards ceremony in April for recipients of all the scholarship programs the college administered. We should be able to meet our recipients in person at that reception.

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with treasures. Whether seeking out unique products offered at the wholesale markets, or managing displays and inventories in their areas each week, these experienced volunteer buyers hand select every item in the Gift Shop based upon quality, value and a sense of style. That dedication and 'hands-on' approach has contributed to the ability of our Shop to meet the diverse needs of all those who enter the Shop. From Overlook staff at all levels, to patients and their visitors, the compliment 'there is something for everyone' is heard daily, and is a testament to the achievement of the mission of service to the entire Overlook community that shapes the Shop.

With such dedicated volunteers, and with the expertise of Manager **Carolyn Penwell**, Assistant Manager **Mary Damiano**, and treasury volunteers **Joyce Farrell** and **Eunice Sheeran**, the Gift Shop continues to be counted among the top hospital gift shops in the state, as well as in the nation. This is an amazing achievement on many levels, and one directly due to the skills of these dedicated ladies, whose commitment to service, quality and value is unwavering in a dynamic retail environment within Overlook and our community.

With 2004 promising another "above Pledge" year, I offer my sincere appreciation and congratulations to the Shop volunteers, and to the Auxilians who support the Shop.

For those of you who have yet to experience the Gift Shop, I encourage each of you to make us a shopping destination. The exact same merchandise found at many local gift boutiques can be found at the Gift Shop, offered at significantly lower prices, everyday! With services like complimentary gift wrap on purchases, and stunning custom floral arrangements for every occasion, what a resource! Knowing your support is critical to the Auxiliary and to patient services at Overlook, **shopping in the Gift Shop should certainly be considered 'a must' on every Auxilians' list of simple but significant ways to support your Auxiliary and Overlook in 2005.**

Liza Tulloch, Gift Shop Chair

Save The Date

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2005

ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON

at

**Brooklake Country Club
Florham Park**

Details to follow in next PULSE

**Marilyn Chambeau
Lambi Newsham
Co-Chairs**

The Overlook Hospital Auxiliary would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank the following Twigs for their monetary contributions to the hospital during the 2004 calendar year. The Auxiliary values your participation in our organization and hopes that all Twig members enjoyed their service throughout this past year.

Chatham #3	\$ 620.00
#4	856.88
#15	9,300.00
New Providence #7	425.00
Short Hills #14	4,105.36
#17	6,200.00
#22	6,000.00
#24	675.00
Springfield #1	326.05
Summit #2	6,280.00
#9	1,134.00
#11	1,670.00
#18	1,100.00
#19	17,250.00
#22	1,598.77

We would also like to thank those Auxillians who sent tax-deductible donations with their dues this past year. Your moneys have helped to reduce the Auxiliary Pledge for the Emergency Center. We appreciate the combined efforts of all our members.

Julie Planck, General Treasurer

Try a Special Pasta from "Great Gatherings" to Chase the Chill!

by Amanda Ford, Twig #3 Cookbook Committee

It's cold and rainy outside - why not try our Penne D'Allesandria tonight for a satisfying winter meal? Made with peppers, mushrooms and sausage, it's sure to warm your souls. Recipe can be made the day before for an easy, delicious dinner party entree. "Great Gatherings" can be purchased at the following locations: In **Summit** - **Overlook Hospital Gift Shop**, The Teapot, Sealcons, Sweet Nothings. In **New Providence** - RSVP. In **Chatham** - Ward & Company Coffee Shop, DJ Crater, Classic Assessories. In **Short Hills** - Wayside Gardens. Or visit our website - www.OHAux.org. Cost of cookbook is \$23.27 including tax.



Gail Callahan, Summit Twig 19 member and Auxiliary recording secretary (left), and **Pat Barber**, volunteer coordinator for Atlantic Hospice, served refreshments at the Hospice "Lights of Love" program on December 2nd at Overlook. Twig 19 members were hosts for the reception preceding the tree lighting in front of the hospital, which honored and memorialized loved ones.



Twig #123 Helped Child Life Celebrate the Holidays in Pediatrics

by Liza Tulloch

Twig #123 brightened this holiday season for those children in Pediatrics by sponsoring a "Breakfast with Santa" on December 23rd in the Child Life Playroom. Patients and their families each received a hand-decorated holiday picture frame made by Twig members for "Pictures with Santa" and a goody bag, and were treated to a delicious breakfast in the Playroom. Pediatric Staff were also included in the celebration.

Twig #123 adopted Child Life in 2001, sponsoring a variety of service projects including the Comfort Cart, the Bead Ladies, the Easter Bunny, Halloween and Santa Breakfasts, and fundraising annually for playroom enhancements and teaching tools.

Blood Donations Urgently Needed

Blood is traditionally in short supply during the winter months due to the holidays, travel schedules, inclement weather and illness. January, in particular, is a difficult time for blood donations. The Blood Donor Services Department at Overlook Hospital, in conjunction with America's Blood Centers and American Red Cross, is celebrating National Volunteer Blood Donor Month. This year's theme, "Give Blood...The Gift of Life", focuses on the importance of giving the gift of life through the donation of blood or whole blood products (platelets, plasma, or red blood cells). The donated blood or platelets are used for patients with cancer and other diseases, for transfusion during surgery, and for accident victims. Our goal is to help ensure that blood is available to patients whenever it is needed

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Art at Overlook Has New Show

Art at Overlook is currently sponsoring an exhibit of works by the 15 members of Exhibitor Co-Op, local artists who work in oils, watercolor, acrylic, colored pencils, graphite, etching and photography. This varied show will be on view in the 5th Floor corridor galleries from **January 9 to March 5**. Be sure to stop by to see them, and remember that all purchases help support Oncology services at Overlook.

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because it is the blood on the shelves that helps to save lives. So even though the holidays are over, you can still give the most important gift of all - the gift of life. If you are eligible to donate, **please call today to make an appointment at Overlook: 908-522-3509**, and receive a long-sleeved T-Shirt as a token of our appreciation. Thank you.

Loretta Ferrara, Atlantic Health System Blood Donor Recruiter

Overlook Hospital Auxiliary, Summit, New Jersey
 Kathleen Beit, President (908)522-2198, Fax (908)522-5960
 Nancy Kuhn, Business Manager (908)522-2004
 Online at: www.ohaux.org

Deadline for Next Issue of PULSE

Deadline for the **March-April** issue of **PULSE** is **February 7**. Send to: Pat Steadman, 74 Portland Rd., Summit, NJ 07901; 908-522-1642; pat.steadman@verizon.net or fax: 908-608-0299. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number/email. Photographs will be returned to you if requested.

Pat Steadman, Editor
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