LeadingAge Connecticut EXPO

A record number of attendees came to LeadingAge Connecticut’s EXPO held on April 23rd at The Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville, Connecticut. Close to 300 of Connecticut’s skilled nursing, assisted living, rehab and housing providers listened to the morning keynote address delivered by the Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman. The Lieutenant Governor held everyone’s attention throughout the morning as she talked about expanding the possibilities of aging within the State of Connecticut. The morning presentation was very interactive as she took many questions from the audience. The first Leadership Academy class was introduced to the EXPO attendees and then the EXPO attendees enthusiastically attended the sold out trade show and browsed through over 85 vendor booths. It was exciting to see many of the vendors returning from last year as well as other companies that were brand new to the LeadingAge Connecticut EXPO. Attendees enjoyed the opportunity to talk to vendors and try out the many products on display.

In the afternoon, the Aging Services Award of Excellence awards were presented to the honorees. Then attendees were entertained by Greg Efta’s amazing presentation on Expanding Your Possibilities by Taking Your Organization to Wow! The afternoon flew by as Efta’s engaging and unique presentation kept everyone’s attention. The program concluded with the presentation of the various raffle drawings. LeadingAge Connecticut would like to thank our generous EXPO sponsors: Silver - Sodexo; Bronze - Amenta/Emma, AmWINS, C.E. Floyd Company, Inc.; HealthPRO Rehabilitation, McKesson, Triple A Supplies; Plenary - Ovation Benefits; Breakfast - Value First; Refreshment - Halloran & Sage LLP, Murtha Cullina, HJ Sims; Tote Bag Sponsor - Nelson Ambulance and Access Ambulance; Aging Services Award of Excellence - PharMerica; and Grand Prize sponsor - Wiggin and Dana. In all, it was a successful event and we look forward to the next EXPO on May 14, 2014.

Sign Up Now! Summer Series for Proactive Planning for the Future of Your Organization

Watch Mag Morelli, President of LeadingAge Connecticut speak about the reasons why you should attend the Summer Series. Click here to watch.

To register, please contact LeadingAge Connecticut at leadingagect@leadingagect.org.
LeadingAge Connecticut honored five employees of four member organizations at the Aging Services Award of Excellence Ceremony at the 2013 EXPO. Cynthia Block from Tower One/Tower East; Debra Dwyer from St. Joseph’s Residence; Jane Hollman from Southington Care; Gus Keach-Longo from The Retreat; and Cindy Senk from Seabury Retirement Community were this year’s recipients. Cynthia Block from Tower One/Tower East was honored for being an outstanding advocate for the resident’s at Tower One/Tower East. Debra Dwyer from St. Joseph’s Residence was selected to receive the Aging Services Award of Excellence for her 25 years of hard work, devotion to her residents and being a team player. Jane Hollman from Southington Care was honored for her ability to be a “Jane” of many trades. In her 19 years at Southington Care, she has mastered the role in over six important positions. Gus Keach-Longo from The Retreat was honored for fostering a “Yes” mentality for his teams as well being a leader amongst his peers. Cindy Senk from Seabury Retirement Community received her award for bringing devotion, passion and infectious inspiration to everyone she encounters Cindy’s life philosophy is no matter what the obstacle, there is nothing that can’t be overcome with positive persistence and the power of teamwork. For over twelve years, LeadingAge Connecticut has proudly recognized employees from member organizations who have distinguished themselves through exemplary service, commitment and caring. Congratulations to this year’s winners!

Cynthia Block receiving her award  
Debra Dwyer receiving her award  
Jane Hollman receiving her award  
Gus Keach-Longo receiving his award  
Cindy Senk receiving her award

LeadingAge Connecticut Members - *Expanding the Possibilities*
LeadingAge Connecticut’s Got’s Lots of Talent

At the conclusion of the tradeshow, LeadingAge Connecticut held the LeadingAge Connecticut’s Got Talent show. Four volunteers from member organizations competed on stage displaying a fantastic array of talent which entertained the EXPO attendees. There was speed painting, singing, and instrument playing. Each volunteer competitor had 3 minutes to showcase their talent and then were judged by the honorary LeadingAge Connecticut Member judges. The audience had their chance to cast their vote for their favorite talent as well. Teresa Wells from the Mary Wade Home won the LeadingAge Connecticut’s Got Talent show with her amazing violin performance. Many thanks to our other talent acts: Valerie Nettleton, Lynne Marullo and Kathy Warren from Seabury Retirement Community, Leonora Cajigas-Rodriguez from Mulberry Gardens and Geoffrey Klish from Noble Horizons. Many thanks to the performers and the volunteer judges for making this event successful!

Senior Living Symposium

LeadingAge Connecticut’s Senior Living Symposium was held at the Whitney Center in Hamden, CT on March 13, 2013. It was a very successful day with a keynote presentation on Hoarding from Dr. David F. Tolin from the Institute of Living. Dr. Tolin is a local “celebrity” as he was the first psychologist on the popular TV shows Hoarders and The OCD Project. Attendees also listened to presentations on the State of the Industry by Keith Robertson from Ziegler; Planning for Affordable Housing by Michael Santoro from the DECD; Identity Theft Against Seniors by John McTighe from Strategic Information Resources; Boost Your Brand Online by Fran Palma from Martino & Binzer; and a Fair Housing Update by Maureen Weaver Esq, from Wiggin and Dana. Many thanks to the day’s sponsors: HJ Sims, CliftonLarsonAllen, KBE Construction and Ziegler.

Mark Your 2013 Calendar—Important Dates

- **July 18** - What Your Organization’s Self-Assessment May Never Reveal Webinar
- **July 25** – Business Affiliate Council meeting
- **August 5** - How Actionable Are Your Organization’s Future Goals program at Ashlar Village
- **August 8** - Legal Issues to Avoid When Creating Strategic Partnerships Webinar
- **August 22**—Your Organization Deserves the Best Plan Possible Webinar
- **August 29** - Learn about the new Transfer of Assets and Applied Income Legislation
- **September 10**: Board of Directors meeting
- **September 11**: MDS program
- **September 19**: Culture Change program
- **October 8**: Annual Meeting at Aqua Turf Club
- **October 27-30**: LeadingAge Conference in Dallas, TX
- **October 28**: Night Out at Gilleys’s in Dallas, TX
- **November 12**: Board of Directors meeting
- **November 14**: Annual Survey and Certification Seminar
- **December 10**: Holiday Fest and Board of Directors meeting
LeadingAge Connecticut Leadership Academy Graduates the Inaugural Class

On June 19th, twenty-one fellows, their sponsors, the Connecticut Leadership Academy coaches and facilitators and members of the LeadingAge Connecticut Board of Directors attended a reception hosted by The Orchards at Southington to honor the culmination of the first Leadership Academy class. Trish Walden, Chair of the LeadingAge Connecticut Board of Directors, welcomed everyone and offered her congratulations to this first Connecticut Leadership Academy Class. Attendees enjoyed a slideshow comprised of photos from the four sessions. LeadingAge Connecticut would like to express our gratitude to the Academy’s book sponsor, CliftonLarsonAllen and everyone that was involved in making the Leadership Academy such a success. The next Leadership Academy will begin in January 2014. Look for applications to be released in September 2013.

LeadingAge Connecticut Leadership Academy Fellows:
Kathy Braga, United Methodist Homes
Edesa Ciscar, The Orchards at Southington
Elizabeth Crowley, Cherry Brook Health Care Center
Vanessa Falzarano, Alzheimer’s Resource Center
Pamela Klapproth, Seabyur/StoneRidge
Beata Kozubal, Hebrew Health Care
Mary Martino, Whitney Center
Katie Mauriello, Arbor Rose at Jerome Home
Andrea Merola, Southington Care Center
Patricia Morse, Connecticut Baptist Homes, Inc.
Philip Murray, Jr., Saint Mary Home—Mercy Community
Chelsea Norton, Alzheimer’s Resource Center
Mary Roberts, Mulberry Gardens
Laurie Rose, St. Joseph’s Living Center
Hilde Sager, Masonicare at Ashlar Village
Debra Samorajczyk, Wesley Village—Bishop Wicke Health Center
Sam Vogt, Hebrew Health Care
Christine Waldie, Hebrew Health Care
Teresa Wells, The Mary Wade Home, Inc.

LeadingAge Connecticut Facilitators and Coaches:
Michael Smith, Alzheimer’s Resource Center
Michele Holloran, Holleran DeArment Consulting
Kelly Papa, Alzheimer’s Resource Center
Jennifer Terray, Alzheimer’s Resource Center
Denise Boudreau-Scott, Denise B. Scott LLC

![Leadership Academy Fellows at Graduation Reception](image1)

Sam Vogt, Mary Roberts, Kelly Papa, Kathy Braga, Liz Crowley, Mary Martino and Patty Morse

Michael Smith, Eileen O’Connor, Jenn Terray, Anne McCarty, Vanessa Falzarano and Chelsea Norton

Sam Vogt, Kathy Mon, Renata Ogrodnik and Bonnie Gauthier

Kelly Papa, Jenn Terray and Michael Smith

Michael Ramabrose, Mary Martino and Ken Sanberg

Debra Samorajczyk, David Lawlor and Kathy Braga
Summer Series for Proactive Planning for the Future of Your Organization

This year, the LeadingAge Connecticut Board of Directors has been involved in facilitated strategic planning with Lois Dostalik from E4 Exchange and as a result has adopted **three strategic priorities** to guide the association. These strategic priorities are:

- Position LeadingAge Connecticut for long term sustainability.
- Refine LeadingAge Connecticut’s advocacy so it is broadened, intentional and proactive.
- Advocate to members the need to strategically think about their future and assist them in making the strategic decisions and taking the strategic actions necessary to position their organizations now for long-term sustainability.

In line with our newly established priorities, LeadingAge Connecticut has developed a very exciting educational series to assist the membership in strategically thinking about the future of their organizations.

This dynamic educational summer series this summer is entitled “**Leveraging Change to Build a Resilient Organization**” and sponsored by **AllStar Therapy** and **Morrison**. This series began on June 18th and will continue through August 22nd. All portions of the series will be conducted in a webinar format except for one in-person half day program on August 5th. **We encourage all of our member organizations to participate in the series** and hope that the webinar format will allow you to conveniently listen to the presentations without the need to travel.

**What Your Organization’s Self-Assessment May Never Reveal.** *July 18, 2013 11:00am—12:30pm*
A webinar presenting a self assessment strategic planning tool designed for your senior provider and housing organizations presented by Michael Slavik CPA, CliftonLarsonAllen

**How Actionable Are Your Organization’s Future Goals?** *August 5, 2013 9:00am—12:00 noon*
An in-person educational workshop on **Health Care Reform, Long Term Care Rebalancing and Declining Occupancy** featuring (Please note that the DSS presentation cannot include specific information regarding the Rightsizing RFP process):
- Kate McEvoy, Esq. Interim Director of Health Services, Connecticut Department of Social Services
- Michael Slavik CPA, CliftonLarsonAllen
- Irving Stackpole, Stackpole Associates
Registration and hot breakfast at 8:30am at Ashlar Village, Wallingford, CT

**Legal Issues to Avoid When Creating Strategic Partnerships.** *August 8, 2013 11:00am—12:00 noon*
A webinar presented by Maureen Weaver, Esq. from Wiggin and Dana and Melinda Agsten, Esq.

**Your Organization Deserves the Best Plan Possible.** *August 22, 2013 11:00am—12:00pm*
This webinar, presented by Lois Dostalik of E4Exchange, will help you pull together everything you learned in each webinar and use it to create actionable steps for proactive planning.

To **register, please contact LeadingAge Connecticut at leadingagect@leadingagect.org.**
LeadingAge Connecticut Members Celebrate Earth Day

Monday, April 22, was Earth Day 2013. The first Earth Day was celebrated in 1970, and this year, more than a billion people in close to 200 countries throughout the world participated in their own communities by promoting the importance of maintaining a healthy environment for all. Mr. Donald Roe, State and Federal Program Administrator for the Wallingford Economic Development Commission, visited Masonicare Health Center in Wallingford and spoke about Earth Day to residents and students from the on-campus Masonicare Child Development Center. Recreational Therapists Betty Naylor and Noreen Schmidt explained how Masonicare residents and youngsters can do their part in helping to save the earth and outlined some of the steps the administration has put into place to help as well. To the delight of residents and staff alike, the enthusiastic youngsters performed on the auditorium stage, singing several popular songs about nature and our environment. A rose bush was planted in the Health Center’s courtyard to commemorate and serve as a reminder of the importance of Earth Day.

Hebrew Health Care’s Green Committee hosted its annual Green Energy Fair. The fair played host to ten organizations including those with expertise in energy conservation, public utility control, solar energy, electronic and regular recycling, environmental education, and advocacy. HHC provided refreshments throughout the day. The Resident Council gave away jewelry made from recycled materials, and the vendor exhibitors provided door prizes including, water saver faucets and goodie bags. More than 100 staff, residents, and family members attended to increase their own awareness of energy conservation, and to learn ways to live more eco-friendly. Participants in the Green Energy Fair included CT Appalachian Mountain Club Conservation, DEEP, CT Resource Recovery (Trash Museum), Green Monster eCycling, Next Step Living, C-TEC Solar, Worldly Wares, Infoshred and the Hebrew Health Care Resident Council.

![HHC’s resident, Molly Dressler and one of the vendors who visited that day.](image1)

Melinda Schoen, Vice President of Administration for Masonicare Health Center, and Donald Roe of the Wallingford Economic Development Commission, plant a rose bush in celebration of Earth Day 2013.

Spring Bloomed Early at Cherry Brook Health Care Center

Thanks to Audrey Dissell, a resident at Cherry Brook Health Care Center, the lobby is feeling more like spring. Pictured are Mrs. Dissell and her latest creation of vibrant Easter Eggs. The history of the decorated egg pre-dates the Christian Easter holiday tradition, and begins as far back as the ancient Greek and Roman civilizations, where it was linked with many springtime celebrations. The decorated egg has since evolved into a true art form, and can be found in countries all over the world as part of the Easter holiday or springtime festivities. Audrey remarks, “I love color, bright color and variations on how they blend. Have you ever noticed the color on water or snow? When snow is crusty it reflects the color spectrum.” Audrey’s vibrant eggs are made out of stained glass paper and marker; each egg represents a different country. The Ukrainian Easter Eggs pictured, known as pysanky are decorated using the batik method, in which the designs are not painted on, but written on with beeswax and then dyed. The Japanese washi eggs, which are used to celebrate the coming of spring, are created by using glue and a brush to apply colored washi paper to the eggshell. The Faberge’ eggs are elaborately jeweled eggs, created by Russia’s Faberge’ jewelry around the turn of the 19th century. Made with precious metals, hard stones, gemstones and jewels, these eggs were usually presented as gifts to the very wealthy during the Easter season.

![Audrey Dissell and her decorated eggs.](image2)
Leeway Welton Opens

Leeway, Connecticut’s only skilled nursing facility dedicated solely to helping people living with HIV/AIDS revive, reclaim and renew their lives. Leeway provides intensive medical, nursing and behavioral health services to patients in it’s 40 bed facility. Leeway’s newest venture, Leeway Welton, which opened in May, will add 10 units of supportive housing at the Leeway campus which will provide affordable housing with case management and support services. Leeway currently is a service provider or owner of 31 units of affordable housing in the greater New Haven area.

Heather Aaron, Executive Director of Leeway, plans to address the changing needs of those living with HIV/AIDS by adding another 30 residential care home beds therefore expanding its services to fill the gap in the continuum of care. The Residential Care Home (RCH) model will meet the needs of people who are living with HIV/AIDS and other co-morbidities. These individuals are very sick and are unsuccessful when discharged from the skilled facility to independent care but not meet the state skilled care requirements. The RCH model will offer intensive social services and case management, educational and life skills building program with clinical oversight. The benefits of this expansion include relapse prevention, reduction of emergency room visits and re-hospitalizations, decrease the length of stay in skilled nursing facilities, improve health outcomes and reduce healthcare costs.

Mulberry Gardens of Southington Resident Celebrates Birthday

Mulberry Gardens of Southington resident, Katharina Scheck celebrated her 104th birthday in March. Pictured on the left is Katharina and her daughter Irene Hoffman at the birthday party celebration. Katharina, her family and friends enjoyed the festivities.

“Next Year Jerusalem” Film Premiered at Sarasota Film Festival

At age 89, Regine Arouette of Connecticut will be accompanied to Florida to watch as the film about her and seven other residents of The Jewish Home, Next Year Jerusalem, premieres on April 13th at the 2013 Sarasota Film Festival. “Choosing life in life’s final chapter is the poignant subtext of Next Year Jerusalem” said Andrew H. Banoff, President & CEO of The Jewish Home. The 69-minute film, produced and directed by New York director and former Weston CT native, David Gaynes, is a poetic examination of the experience of the eight residents, ranging in age from 87 to 97, who traveled to Israel in 2011. The film is an earnest reflection on the sanctity of human experience and a reverent portrait of life’s eldest travelers. According to Gaynes, who has made two other documentary films, “Each character surprises the viewer with earnest and nuanced reflections on travel, aging and hope. This special film is intended to paint an honest portrait of life at life’s end. Those who spend their final days face difficult questions: what to look forward to, how to mark their days. The promise of one last adventure raises the stakes.” Travelers also include Helen Downs, 91, Sandy Levin, 82, Leslie Novis, 90, Selma Rosenblatt, 93, Harry Shell, 92, Bill Wein, 97, and Juna Wein, 89. Gaynes added that despite concerns about the well-being and physical health of the travelers, they met and exceeded their physical challenges and formed new friendships. Their spiritual experiences, so deeply at the heart of any journey to the “Holy Land” are documented and presented in their complexity for the travelers. Next Year Jerusalem is less a story about tourists in a foreign land than it is a celebration of life, a meditation on the sanctity of human experience and a tribute to the wisdom acquired in the course of a lifetime.
Hoffman Summerwood Celebrates Dr. Seuss

Children from the Beatrice Fox Auerbach Early Childhood Center, Lollipop Tree Nursery School, Solomon Schechter Day School and Noah’s Ark Preschool attended a Dr. Seuss 109th Birthday Celebration at Hoffman SummerWood Community on March 3rd. The children donned red and white “Cat in the Hat” hats as they enjoyed some Dr. Seuss stories read by SummerWood residents Silvia Pasternak and Kayleen Goldstein. Theodor Seuss Geisel was an American writer, poet and cartoonist who wrote many children’s books under the pen name “Dr. Seuss.” The children enjoyed time socializing, coloring, and singing. After cupcakes and popcorn, the children and their families viewed the movie “The Lorax.” A large number of new and gently used books were collected to be donated to The Connecticut Children’s Medical Center in Hartford.

Mary Wade Home Participates in the Fair Haven Parade

Parade master organizer and chief cheerleader Rufina Durazzo said that the first year the Mary Wade Home organized the parade there were 100 participants. It’s grown ten-fold with this year first-time participants including the International Festival of Arts & Ideas; color guard units from the army, navy, and marine reserve units; the Board of Ed school security officers in a contingent 17 strong and Miss Connecticut Teen USA 2013, Kendall Leary. The procession also included the city’s aldermen, mayoral candidates, and a full contingent of police brass. As each and every contingent of marchers turned into the gardens behind the Mary Wade Home to grab pizza and much needed water, Home CEO David Hunter, Board Chair Alfred Goldberg, and Durazzo greeted and extended thanks. The centerpiece of the party was the presentation of the parade’s annual award for leadership and special contribution to the community. Past winners have included now Assistant Chief Luiz Casanova and community activists Lee Cruz and Mary Ann Moran. This year’s award went to Livable City Initiative’s Laurie Lopez who for 11 years has been coordinating with the police, pubic works, and other city agencies while she stumps through abandoned buildings as the area’s first-responding blight fighter, rescues dogs, and makes Fair Haven a better place. “I don’t do this alone. This reflects everyone I work with,” she said. “Enjoy the food, enjoy the gardens, see you next year,” declared Hunter.

A New Era in Group Purchasing has Arrived

A group purchasing organization of LeadingAge and State Affiliates

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Thank you Sodexo for supporting the 2013 EXPO as the Silver Sponsor.

LeadingAge Connecticut thanks you for your continued support.
LeadingAge Connecticut Member Spotlight

Kelly Smith Papa, MSN, RN has joined Masonicare as Corporate Director of Learning. Kelly will oversee Masonicare’s corporate education programs, including orientation and continuing education, to ensure the organization is meeting the educational needs of employees throughout its continuum. She will also manage all current and new corporate educational initiatives, including partnerships with area colleges and universities.

Bonnie Gauthier, the CEO of Hebrew Health Care, was honored with a Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Saint Joseph. The Mary Consuela Mulcahy Award is awarded to an alumni who has achieved distinction in the field of science or technology.

Renee J. Bernasconi, CMP has been promoted to the position of Chief Strategy Officer at Seabury Retirement Community. She has worked at Seabury since 1996 and most recently had the position of Senior Vice President of Marketing and Communications.

Cherry Brook Health Care Center and Pro Health Partners have added Hollie Smith, APRN to their medical staff. Hollie has worked at Hartford Hospital for the last eight years and now will work at Cherry Brook Health Care Center on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays to help residents with all different medial issues.

Jo Anne Kuncas, RN, MS received a certification in Care Management from the National Academy of Certified Care Managers. Jo Anne is currently the Director of Nurses at Cedar Mountain Commons.

Dr. Ronald Schwartz, Masonicare Health Center’s Medical Director was certified for Hospice and Palliative Care by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). ABMS is a not-for-profit organization that assists medical specialty boards in the development and use of standards in the ongoing evaluation and certification of physicians.

Dr. Gail Labadia, a physician with Masonicare Primary Care Physicians practicing at the Masonicare Health Center was certified for Hospice and Palliative Care by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). ABMS is a not-for-profit organization that assists medical specialty boards in the development and use of standards in the ongoing evaluation and certification of physicians.

The American College of Health Care Administrators (ACHCA) honored Susan Vinal, Administrator of Cherry Brook Health Care Center with the 2013 ACHCA Facility Leadership Award. The areas of excellence the facility must exhibit includes three years of performance on the Health Survey, Fire Survey, Compliant Surveys and improvement in the last two quarters of the reported Quality Measures.

Dr. Rajesh Tampi, the Director of Behavioral Health for Masonicare of Wallingford, has been named Geriatric Psychiatric Clinical of the Year by the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry (AAGP). AAGP promotes the mental health and well-being of older people through professional education, public advocacy and support career development for clinicians, educators, and researchers in geriatric psychiatry and mental health.

Heidi Gil has been hired as the new Senior Director of Quality and Innovation of Central Connecticut Senior Health Services (CCSHS). In her role, Heidi will coordinate and collaborate with all levels of the organization to ensure quality processes and priorities are in place to ensure optimal outcomes. She will also be responsible for facilitating the implementation of Hartford Healthcare’s transformational model known as How Hartford HealthCare Works.

Qualidigm, the national health care consulting company, names Timothy M. Elwell as its new CEO. Prior to his new position, Timothy was the Vice President of Misys Open Source Solutions which is a division of the global financial services and software provider Misys PLC.
Eleven Nurses Recognized for Excellence in Nursing

In May, at the thirteenth annual Nightingale Awards presentation, these special nurses were honored at award dinners held in Groton, Hartford, Stamford and New Haven. Eleven of Masonicare’s nurses were presented with the Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing. Stacey Finch, LPN; Rosmarie Kohn, CAN, LPN; Jolanta M. Vitale, RN; Maria Fabrizzi, RN; Lisa Davanzo, RN; Linda Hill, LPN; Susan Moore, RN, BSN, MS; Katherine Nadeau, RN; Deborah Tedford, RN, AD; Mary E. Keating, RN, BSN; Lorraine Roy-Galat, LPN were honored.

The Nightingale Awards program recognizes hundreds of nurses throughout Connecticut for their dedication, commitment and generous contributions to the field of nursing. The program is open and inclusive of all healthcare settings-hospitals, home health care, health centers, schools, health departments, long-term care, nursing schools, agencies and medical practices.

LeadingAge Connecticut Members Celebrate Nurses Week

National Nurses Week, celebrated May 6-12th, honors the contributions of nurses across the country. LeadingAge Connecticut members mark the week by honoring their nurses whose collaborative nature and willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty defines the essence of nursing. Elizabeth Crowley, RN, Director of Nurses at Cherry Brook Health Care Center said, “Our nurses, through their hard work and dedication better the lives of the patients they serve. They are truly committed to improving the quality of life in our patients, and we couldn’t be more appreciative of their support.”

Cherry Brook Health Care Center themed their week long celebration as “Team Care” and had raffles, special celebratory meal and gifts, a scavenger hunt, crazy hat day, resident’s flea market and penny auction, staff and resident wheel chair decorating and parade, sports themed dress down day, resident’s ice cream social, staff chair massages and resident vs. staff balloon volley.

Hebrew Health Care celebrated National Nurses Week by having senior management take turns greeting staff as they came in for their shifts, thanked them individually for their dedication to the residents and presented them with bag of goodies. Refreshments were also served throughout the week.

Hebrew Health Care Residents Participate in Memorial Day Parade

Veteran residents of Hebrew Health Care joined four members of the Teen Leadership and Philanthropy Institute (TLPI) for a ride on a Memorial Day Parade float which was sponsored by the TLPI. Hebrew Health Care and the Teen Leadership and Philanthropy Institute have enjoyed a long and enjoyable partnership in many different programs. Residents on the float represented four branches of the United States military: Marines, Navy, Army and WAC. Specifically with the Hebrew Home, over the years students have done annual Chanukah projects, funded requests for outdoor furnishings, large-print library books, purchase of a large, flat-screen TV for the Adult Day Lounge and, most recently, funded the Memorial Day Float. The students unanimously decided to fund the float because they wanted to honor the Veterans while also providing an exciting social experience for residents. When invited to join the parade, the residents eagerly accepted, honored to participate and join the generations on such a happy occasion!
Masonicare at Newtown Awarded Grant

Masonicare at Newtown received a $75,000 grant from the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority (CHEFA). Representatives of CHEFA formally presented the grant at a reception held on March 13th at Masonicare at Newtown. The grant will help fund the installation of a wireless network to enable clinicians to move freely about the building using computers and mobile devices to electrically access the medical records of patients and residents. Masonicare at Newtown’s Administrator, John Sweeney, was pleased to accept the grant on behalf of Masonicare. “We sincerely thank CHEFA for awarding us this significant grant. It will make it easier for physicians and staff to move freely throughout our facilities and other areas while staying connected to the network and having constant access to up-to-date patient information. This technology will further enhance our goal to provide the best care possible to every one of our patients and residents.”

Hebrew Health Care Raises Funds to Support Dementia Care Services

On May 5, 2013 Hebrew Health Care’s Board of Trustees, the Celebrate Life Tribute Committee, and 400 of HHC’s closest friends Celebrated Great Lives at the Hartford Marriott Downtown. A unique live auction of celebrity designed Adirondack chairs raised over $40,000 for HHC’s A Fresh Canvas: An Alzheimer’s Arts Program. A few of the celebrities that designed and decorated the Adirondack chairs include: The Today Show hosts (Matt Lauer, Natalie Morales, Savannah Guthrie and Al Roker); Elisabeth and Tim Hasselbeck, host of The View and NFL Analyst; Don Hasselbeck, NFL Superbowl Champion and Amy Leiner, jewelry maker to the stars. Doris Kearns Goodwin, the guest speaker, gave an engaging speech about the lives and politics of many of our former Presidents including Abraham Lincoln, her hero, and Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Her talk was peppered with anecdotes of her days in the White House beginning with her internship during the Johnson administration. Goodwin also shared how she used to relay the Brooklyn Dodger’s games to her dad. It was that daily activity that led her down the path of becoming a world-renowned historian. She still has a great passion for baseball and now cheers on her beloved Boston Red Sox.

A total of $300,000 was raised from the event which provides support for HHC programs and services, many of which are not fully reimbursable, including our Dementia Care Services and A Fresh Canvas: An Alzheimer’s Arts Program. A Fresh Canvas provides art based therapy classes to clients with Alzheimer’s disease or related dementias. Residents who participate in the art program seem to recognize other group members and facilitators, transcending memory loss by connecting on a deeper level.
Hoffman Summerwood Resident Receives Art Award

SummerWood resident Lucille Mandell was recently awarded with an honorable mention for her submission in the Assisted Living Federation of America’s (ALFA) Senior Living Art Showcase. ALFA received over 900 submissions from residents of senior living communities of which 47 received this recognition. A collage made of torn pieces of paper, Mrs. Mandell’s beach scene titled “Great Grandmother and Great Grandson” will be featured along with other winners on a t-shirt and at the ALFA website at www.alfa.org. When asked how she felt about receiving this award, Mrs. Mandell said, “I made a hole in the ceiling I jumped so high with excitement!”

Capitol Towers Rededicated

Residents, community leaders and public officials recently joined Retirement Housing Foundation and The Schochet Companies for a rededication ceremony of Capitol Towers in Hartford, marking the completion of nearly $2 million in renovations over the past year. In addition to a number Retirement Housing Foundation’s employees from their national office in California, Mayor Pedro E. Segarra and State Representative Minnie Gonzalez joined residents in the celebration.

“We are thrilled to be a part of this project and of bringing an enhanced quality of life to the more than 160 residents that live at Capitol Towers,” said Richard Henken, President of The Schochet Companies. “These facility improvements will not only ensure the long-term sustainability of this building, but will also provide residents with an enriched living environment by introducing new amenities such as a community room and full time resident services coordinator.”

Opened in 1972, Capitol Towers consists of 144 affordable housing units situated on 1.2 acres in downtown Hartford that provides housing for the elderly and persons with disabilities. In 2012, Retirement Housing Foundation, a national non-profit that provides affordable housing options for the elderly and disabled and The Schochet Companies, which oversees the management of Capitol Towers, launched a comprehensive renovation project that included $1.77 million in facility improvements and energy savings upgrades.

Among the renovations included in the project are safety improvements such as a state-of-the-art fire alarm system, a security camera system, and the hiring of part-time security personnel to work on-site. The complex also replaced all unit windows, toilets, and water valves to assist with energy conservation. Furthermore, resident comfort has been significantly improved with an updated hot water system and new building make up air. These renovations have created a safer, healthier, and more eco-friendly living environment for all residents to enjoy.
Welcome New Business Affiliate Members!

LeadingAge Connecticut is pleased to welcome Business Affiliate Members that joined our membership this year.

Qualidigm has Moved

Please note the new mailing address for Qualidigm. The fax number, phone number and emails addresses will remain the same.

Qualidigm
1290 Silas Deane Highway, Suite 4A
Wethersfield, CT 06109-4337

Ideas for Programs?

Many of our best program ideas have come from member suggestions. If you have an idea or see a need for a particular educational event, please contact Andrea Bellofiore at LeadingAge Connecticut at:

- abellofiore@leadingagect.org
- 860-828-2903 x11

Want to submit an article for the next LeadingAge Connecticut Newsletter?

Please contact Andrea Bellofiore at LeadingAge Connecticut at abellofiore@leadingagect.org to submit articles of interest for LeadingAge Connecticut’s next quarterly newsletter.
2013 LeadingAge Connecticut Staff Directory

**LeadingAge Connecticut**
1340 Worthington Ridge
Berlin, CT 06037
860-828-2903
www.leadingagect.org

**Mag Morelli**
President
mmorelli@leadingagect.org
Extension 13

**Beth Ricker**
Finance Manager
bricker@leadingagect.org
Extension 12

**Andrea Bellofiore**
Director of Member Programs & Services
abellofiore@leadingagect.org
Extension 11

**Nurka Carrero**
Office Manager
ncarrero@leadingagect.org
Extension 10

**Value First - Nick DeFrancesco**
valuefirst@leadingagect.org
Extension 16