



GUILD NEWS AND HEALTH SYSTEM HAPPENINGS

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MARCH 2010



The Bird Cage

There once was a man named George Thomas. He was a pastor in a small New England town. One Easter Sunday morning he came to church carrying a rusty, bent, old bird cage, and set it by the pulpit. He told this story.

"I was walking through town yesterday when I saw a young boy coming toward me swinging this bird cage. On the bottom of the cage were three little wild birds, shivering with cold and fright. I stopped the lad and asked, 'What you got there, son?'

'Just some old birds' was his reply.

'What are you going to do with them?' I inquired.

'Take 'em home and have some fun with 'em,' he answered. 'I'm gonna tease 'em and pull out their feathers to make 'em fight. I'm gonna have a real good time.'

'But you'll get tired of those birds sooner or later. Then what will you do?'

'Oh, I got some cats,' said the little boy. 'They like birds. I'll give 'em to them.'

The pastor was silent for a moment. Then he said, 'How much do you want for those birds, son?'

'Huh??!!! Why, you don't want them birds, mister. They're just plain old field birds. They don't sing. They ain't even pretty!'

'How much?' the pastor asked again.

The boy sized up the pastor as if he were crazy and said, '\$10?'

The pastor reached in his pocket and took out a ten dollar bill. He placed it in the boy's hand. In a flash, the boy was gone.

The pastor picked up the cage and gently carried it to the end of the alley where there was a tree and a grassy spot. Setting the cage down, he opened the door, and by softly tapping the bars persuaded the birds out, setting them free."

(Continued on page 2)



Message from Mr. Arndt

As you are probably well aware, New York State is in a budget crisis and is proposing budget cuts that would be disastrous for health care providers like Niagara Lutheran Health System. Governor Paterson's most recent executive budget proposal calls for \$1 Billion in health care provider taxes and cuts — on top of nearly \$4 Billion in cuts ALREADY ENACTED over the last 2 years. This latest round of cuts would be devastating to Niagara Lutheran and the communities we serve.

In January 2010, we finally received our Medicaid reimbursement rates that are effective back to April 2009. The overall annual impact of these rates was a DECREASE in income of:

NLHRC	(\$217,500)
GHRC	(\$154,250)
Total cuts eff. 2009	(\$371,750)

Unbelievably, the cuts just keep coming. In his 2010-2011 executive budget the Governor has proposed cutting an additional \$400 Million in long-term care funding, of which \$140.2 Million would be from Nursing Homes like NLHRC. These decreases would be in addition to the ones we received going back to April 2009. The overall impact of these changes is estimated to decrease our income by:

NLHRC	(\$171,000)
GHRC	(\$145,000)
Total cuts for 2010	(\$316,000)
Total cuts eff 2009 (above)	(\$371,750)
TOTAL 2010 IMPACT	(\$687,750)

Just these accumulated decreases in income for 2009 and 2010 under this proposal would be devastating to our two skilled nursing homes!

(Continued on page 3)

PRESIDENT:

Florence Doran

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Cosentino

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CIRCULATION:

Mary Ann Young and Mailing Crew

Next Meeting

THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2010 at GHRC ~ 5949 Broadway, Lancaster

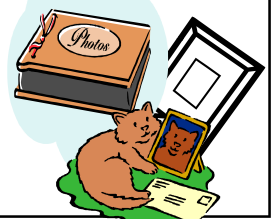
11:30 am **Hostesses:** Ladies from St. John's, Lancaster

12:30 pm **Devotions:** Rev. Dr. John Scarafia, St. John's, Lancaster

1:00 pm **Program:** "Celebrate Your Family History" thru scrapbooking, albums, etc. Presented by Diane Pesch-Sevatter

We will also be learning about the "True Stretch" equipment we purchased for the GHRC Outpatient Clinic which is already in use!

RSVP to Florence
at 836-6803
by Fri., APRIL 9



Footnotes from Florence

Dear Friends — Because of a scheduling conflict, I'm writing to you before our March meeting at the Lutheran Church Home (LCH). Even though it isn't right on the date, we will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with festive desserts, colorful decorations, and favors made by the "Homemakers" from Brighton Community Church in Tonawanda. The "Homemakers" also made leprechaun magnets for all the LCH residents for their St. Patrick's Day luncheon. We give many thanks for their thoughtfulness and generosity. Norma Horton, one of our board members, also contributed a St. Patrick Day theme basket. Someone with "the luck of the Irish" will win it. Thanks Norma.

I'm sure The Rev. Gary Steeves from Resurrection Lutheran Church in Buffalo will have an inspirational message for us. I've had a great time reading about the history of the ten favorite hymns selected by residents of LCH for our hymn sing. We expect a number of residents to join us. Thanks to Marie Wienke, who will be our piano accompanist, for sharing a devotional book entitled, Amazing Grace. This book contains 36 inspiring hymn stories, all very interesting. And, thanks to Vivian Cosentino for researching the hymns on the internet. It should be a great program of hymn singing, inspiration, and history.

Last year, at our March meeting at LCH, nationally recognized author, Christine Tayntor, was our guest speaker, and the new library she endowed at LCH was dedicated that day. Many members who attended that meeting have read the novel she discussed, Paper Roses, which was the first book of her Texas Dream Series. Her second novel of the series, Scattered Petals, is now available, and in 2011 Christine will be with us to discuss the third book in the series. One reviewer wrote, "Scattered Petals is a wonderful novel with heart-rending depth of raw human emotions. Cabot's gifted pen tells a beautiful story of sorrow, pain, and forgiveness with the hope of unconditional love." Remember, Christine goes by the pen name Amanda Cabot in case you are interested in reading her novels.

The response to our request for a volunteer to tabulate the Dash's tapes has been overwhelming! Four women called to volunteer. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! By the time we print our next newsletter, we hope to have someone "on the job" ready to redeem the tapes for cash. Of course, we thank Jan Steiner profusely for all of her hard work and Dash's for their generosity and recognition of our service to the residents of the NLHS.

Join us on April 15 when we will be meeting at GreenField Health & Rehabilitation Center (GHRC) in Lancaster. Be sure to make your reservations by FRIDAY, April 9. (It helps the dietary staff to have a count for lunch in order to prepare properly.) Thanks for your cooperation. Come and hear Diane Pesch-Sevatter, a Guild member herself, discuss ways to "Celebrate Your Family History" through scrapbooking, albums, etc. Maybe you can share an idea or two, too.

A Blessed Easter to you all! ~ Florence



DASH'S TAPES

Remember to TURN THEM IN!

There's a little pink box in the reception areas for this, you can give to a board member, or mail them to NLHS Guild, 64 Hager St, Buffalo NY 14208.

We have a great start this year to raise even more money than last year!

(Continued from page 1)



Well, that explained the empty bird cage on the pulpit.

Then the pastor told another story.

"One day Satan and Jesus were having a conversation. Satan had just come from the Garden of Eden, and he was gloating and boasting. 'Yes, sir, I just caught the world full of people down there. Set me a trap, used bait I knew they couldn't resist. Got 'em all!'

'What are you going to do with them?' Jesus asked.

Satan replied, 'Oh, I'm gonna have fun! I'm gonna teach them how to marry and divorce each other, how to hate and abuse each other, how to drink and smoke and curse. I'm gonna teach them how to

invent guns and bombs and kill each other. I'm really gonna have fun!'

'And what will you do when you get done with them?' Jesus asked. 'Oh, I'll kill 'em,' Satan glared proudly. 'How much do you want for them?' Jesus asked.

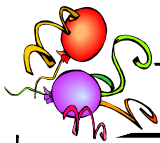
'Oh, you don't want those people. They ain't no good. Why, you'll take them and they'll just hate you. They'll spit on you, curse you and kill you. You don't want those people!'

'How much?' He asked again.

Satan looked at Jesus and sneered, 'All your blood, your tears, and your life.'

Jesus said, 'DONE!' And, He paid the price."

~ Unknown



Residents' Birthdays

GHRC

4/3	Marion Knowles	4/13	Orrin Wolff
4/4	Janis Vrana	4/16	Mattie Brown
4/7	Stephen Perrello	4/24	Lucille Brumfield
4/8	Marian Hoff	4/28	Mae Gillam
4/9	Emily Rutkowski	4/29	Mary Anne Prill
4/10	Jane Martzolf		
4/18	Norman Fertig		
4/19	Elaine Glasser		
4/20	Bernice Ott		
4/21	Marjorie Champagne		
4/22	Doris Fondiller		
4/24	Melba Seibold		
4/25	Florence Sherwood		
4/27	Lucille Robbins		

GFCourt

4/1	Mary Speranza
4/6	Evelyn Carlson
4/8	Marian Hoff
4/10	Sarah Harrington
4/25	Elizabeth Brown
4/27	Adele Pfeifenroth

LCH

4/4	Ida Hall
4/6	Ovetta Shakespeare
4/13	Dorothy Jones
4/29	Allen Doyle

NLHRC

4/1	James Gruber
4/3	Isabelle Camp
4/5	Katherine McGrath
4/7	Epifania Casillas

GUILD BIRTHDAY REMINDER



It has been our tradition to collect a special donation in celebration of the Guild's birthday which is used specifically to enhance the lives of residents. If you are not able to give dollars, please remember the homes and our residents in your prayers. Please make your check payable to:
NLHS Guild / 64 Hager Street - Buffalo, NY 14208



My Birthday Gift to the Guild

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Amount _____

Message from Mr. Arndt --- (Continued from page 1)

We, and other skilled nursing facilities like ours, need your help. We have to stand together and send our message out so that lawmakers simply cannot ignore it.

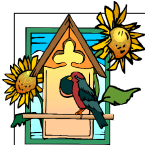
As I mentioned last month, our association with the not-for-profit group called the New York Association of Homes & Services for the Aging (NYAHSAs) and their grassroots effort called "Partners in Quality - Families and Friends" allows everyday people to be heard by lawmakers in Albany. All you need is a compassionate heart and Internet access.

If you'd like to get involved, you can check out their website at www.NYAHSAs.org, send your name and email address to me at NLHS, 64 Hager Street, Buffalo, New York 14208, or email Vivian Cosentino at vcosentino@NiagaraLutheran.org indicating your interest in participating. NYAHSAs has a new website devoted to this at www.respectnyseniors.org. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your help and support.

I think this topic has hit home with me more than ever lately because I see so many people who need the care we provide, especially in the city. Rest assured, we are financially stable, yet we have to keep in mind that these proposed cuts would affect reimbursement rates for a large portion of our residents, most notably, more than 85% of our city campus population.

In spite of the budget issues, everything else is going well and I will update you on those issues next time around. In the meantime, I wish you a most Blessed and Happy Easter, and cannot thank you enough for all you do.

~ Jurgen Arndt, President/CEO



The NLHS Guild's Spring Fling Craft/Plant and Bake

Thursday, May 20, 2010
NLHRC Lobby
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



**Baked Goods,
Plants and Crafts
Auntie Em's Collectibles**
("gently used" items)

Bring your donations to 64 Hager Street at any time and mark them for the Spring Fling Sale.



Questions? Call
Florence Doran at 836-6803

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
is being asked to match funds raised

2009 Schedule of Weekly Worship Services with Holy Communion

NLHRC ~ Sundays at 2:30 p.m. In the Strodel Chapel/Auditorium



- 4/1 Maundy Thurs: Rev. Allen Griep, *NLHS Chaplain*
- 4/2 Good Friday: Rev. Deacon Ronald Walker
- 4/4 Easter- Rev. Allen Griep, *NLHS Chaplain*
- 4/11 Rev. David Menz, *All Saints, Hamburg*
- 4/18 Pending
- 4/25 Memorial Srv: Rev. Allen Griep, *NLHS Chaplain*

LCH ~ Sundays at 2:30 p.m. In the Chapel

- 4/4 Easter: Rev. Troy Mulvaine, *Augustana, Ton.*
- 4/11 Rev. Troy Mulvaine, *Augustana, Ton.*
- 4/18 Rev. Allen Griep, *NLHS Chaplain*
- 4/25 Memorial Srv- Rev. Janet Griffiths, *Grace, NT*

GF MANOR/COURT ~ Saturdays at 1:00 p.m. In the Richard Seibold Chapel/Auditorium

And

GHRC ~ Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. In the Melba Y. Seibold Chapel/Auditorium

- 4/1 Maundy Thurs—GHRC at 11:00 a.m.
Rev. Allen Griep, *NLHS Chaplain*
- 4/2 Good Friday—GHRC at 11:00 a.m.
Rev. Allen Griep, *NLHS Chaplain*
- 4/3 Easter: Rev. Allen Griep, *NLHS Chaplain*
- 4/10 Rev. Robert Knepel, *Immanuel, E. Aurora*
- 4/17 Pending
- 4/24 Memorial Srv: Rev. Allen Griep, *NLHS Chaplain*

Roman Catholic Masses ~ Holy Communion

- NLHRC: First Fridays at 11:00 a.m.
Other Fridays at 11:00 a.m.:
Deacon-led services with
Holy Communion
- GHRC: Mondays at 2:30 p.m.
- LCH: 2nd Thursdays at 2:30 p.m.
Rosary and Holy Communion on
alternate Saturdays at 6:00 p.m.
- GCM: Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.



Chaplain Services:



If there is a need for emotional and/or spiritual support for a resident, family member, or yourself, please contact our Chaplain, The Rev. Allen Griep, at 886-4377 or 692-6380.

Pastoral Care Email



The Pastoral Care Department has its own private email now. --
pastoralcare@NiagaraLutheran.org

Travel Opportunities

Pastor Michael Blackwell, from St. John's-Depew and the GreenField Manor board of directors, is planning **2 bus trips** this summer with his St. John's Travel Group: **(1)** the Stratford Shakespeare Festival to see "Kiss Me Kate" and "Evita. July 21-22. (deadline for deposit is April 5) and **(2)** to Vermont for a tour of many attractions there. (deadline for deposit is May 30).



For details, call Pastor Blackwell at 683-3295

Changing Your Address?

Please fill this out, clip and mail to:

NLHS GUILD NEWSLETTER

64 Hager Street - Buffalo, NY 14208



Name _____

NEW Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

OLD Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

DATES: _____

Phone # _____

DATES ARE IMPORTANT FOR SAVING POSTAGE — THANKS!

Look for Guild Updates on Facebook



We have begun posting Guild updates on Facebook through the NLHS Facebook page.

If you'd like to receive Guild notices or learn more about the Niagara Lutheran Health System, become a Fan of the Niagara Lutheran Health System. You can do this by searching for Niagara Lutheran Health System (Official) or use this URL: www.Facebook.com/NiagaraLutheran.

If you have questions or need assistance, call Vivian Cosentino at (716) 886-4377.



Legacies for Life ~ Gifts made by bequest through a will, bequest or insurance policy, play a vital role in our mission of compassionate care. To learn more, contact the Foundation at 886-4377

Volunteers

Special Requests for Volunteers

- † **SOMEONE TO RUN COPIES** and help the NLHRC HIM (Health Information Management) department. Call Carol Ransom or the HIM Dept. at 886-4377
- † Help **transport NLHRC residents to and from worship** on Sunday afternoons from 2:00-3:30 p.m. at NLHRC. (Average worship attendance is 50 people from all the floors.) This could be a great youth or adult group project. Call Hellen at 886-4377.
- † **HELP NLHRC "WELCOME" new residents.** NLHRC is looking for items and volunteers to create "welcome bags" for incoming residents. Pencils, pens, memo pads, small lotions, pocket-sized tissues, artificial stem flowers, pretty little bags to put it all in. This is a "work in progress" and suggestions are welcome! Contact Hellen at 886-4377.



WISH LISTS

NLHRC: Contact: Hellen Culverhouse at 886-4377

- † SCRAPBOOKING, ARTS-&-CRAFTS SUPPLIES & YARN !
- † BABY DOLLS & DOLL SUPPLIES
- † DVDS OF TV SIT COMS FROM THE 60's & 70's
- † JEWELRY BOXES
- † BINGO PRIZES (toiletries, small knick knacks, etc.)
- † SPRING/HOLIDAY CLINGS

GHRC: Contact: Jennifer Pellicane at 684-3000

- † DECKS OF CARDS
- † GENTLY USED STUFFED ANIMALS
- † SPRING/HOLIDAY CLINGS
- † BINGO PRIZES

GFCourt: Contact: Lisa Scaglione at 684-8400

- † BINGO PRIZES (including jewelry and knick knacks)

LCH: Contact: Joan Griffin at 882-1231

- † BINGO PRIZES
- † Sewers and Quilters to help with our RSVP Quilt Program on Thursdays, from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

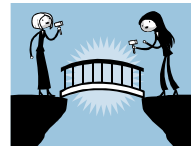


Guild Meeting Schedule

APRIL 15	GHRC Chapel & Aud "Celebrate Your Family History" thru scrapbooking, albums, etc. Diane Pesch-Sevatter
MAY 20	NLHRC Chapel & Aud SPRING FUN FAIR/ Card Workshop
JUN 17	12 pm GF Manor Chapel & Aud LUNCHEON/FUNDRAISER
JUL/AUG	No Meetings
SEP 16	LCH Aud
OCT 21	NLHRC Chapel & Aud FALL FUN FAIR
NOV 18	GF Manor Chapel & Aud
DEC 9	12 pm Location to be determined CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION & FUNDRAISER

Tabulating Dash's Tapes - a Great Response

Your enthusiastic response to our request for a volunteer to tabulate tapes for the DASH'S TAPES program has been WONDERFUL!!! It's people like those who "stepped up to the plate" to help that make this organization great and enables us to serve our residents so well. We are still in the process of coordinating things and will be making an announcement soon. THANK YOU to everyone who has offered to help!!!



Congregational Liaisons

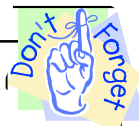
We are looking for people interested in serving as *Congregational Liaisons* to the Guild in order to make communications between churches and the Guild more efficient. (It won't require a lot of time.). To learn more, contact Florence Doran at 836-6803.

REMINDER - MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

In addition to interesting and fun programs, receiving this newsletter is another benefit of membership. Please prayerfully consider your membership and encourage others to join.

You can mail your \$5.00 dues to: NLHS Guild / 64 Hager Street / Buffalo, NY 14208. You can also bring it to a Guild meeting or turn it in to your Guild Liaison.

Thank you for your continued support!



NIAGARA LUTHERAN HEALTH SYSTEM GUILD
64 Hager Street ~ Buffalo, NY 14208
Caring ~ Heart & Soul

NLHS Guild Membership

Name _____
Address _____
C/S/Zip _____
Phone # _____
Home Church _____
City _____

Just \$5 per year

*MISSION of the
Niagara Lutheran Health System Guild :*

The NIAGARA LUTHERAN HEALTH SYSTEM GUILD serves the constituents of Niagara Lutheran Home & Rehabilitation Center, Lutheran Church Home, GreenField Health & Rehabilitation Center, GreenField Manor, GreenField Court and any other social ministries related to the Niagara Lutheran Health System.

Guild members promote the interests and programs of the Health System's affiliates as they are able. All volunteers are welcome and encouraged to join the NLHS Guild.

AFFILIATES OF THE NIAGARA LUTHERAN HEALTH SYSTEM

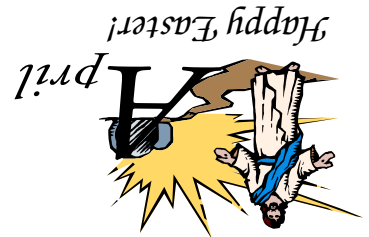


Buffalo

NIAGARA LUTHERAN HOME AND REHABILITATION CENTER
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH HOME
NIAGARA LUTHERAN HEALTH FOUNDATION

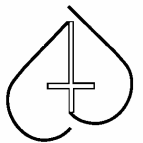
Lancaster

GREENFIELD HEALTH AND REHABILITATION CENTER
GREENFIELD MANOR
GREENFIELD COURT



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