



GUILD NEWS AND HEALTH SYSTEM HAPPENINGS

Published by NIAGARA LUTHERAN HEALTH SYSTEM Guild • 64 Hager Street • Buffalo, NY 14208 • (716) 886-4377 • www.NiagaraLutheran.org

SEPTEMBER 2010



He Smells of Rain

A cold March wind danced around the dead of night in Dallas as the doctor walked into the small hospital room of Diana Blessing. She was still groggy from surgery. Her husband, David, held her hand as they braced themselves for the latest news. That afternoon of March 10, 1991, complications had forced Diana, only 24-weeks pregnant, to undergo an emergency Cesarean to deliver the couple's new daughter, Dana Lu Blessing.

At 12 inches long and weighing only one pound nine ounces, they already knew she was perilously premature. Still, the doctor's soft words dropped like bombs. "I don't think she's going to make it," he said, as kindly as he could. If by some slim chance she does make it, her future could be a very cruel one." Numb with disbelief, David and Diana listened as the doctor described the devastating problems Dana would likely face if she survived.

Diane and David, with their 5-year-old son Dustin, had long dreamed of the day they would have a daughter to become a family of four. Now, within a matter of hours, that dream was slipping away. As those first days passed, a new agony set in for David and Diana. Because Dana's underdeveloped nervous system was essentially 'raw', the lightest kiss or caress only intensified her discomfort, so they couldn't even cradle their tiny baby girl against their chests to offer the strength of their love. All they could do, as Dana struggled alone beneath the ultraviolet light in the tangle of tubes and wires, was to pray that God would stay close to their precious little girl. At last, when she turned two months old, her parents were able to hold her in their arms for the very first time. The doctors continued to gently but grimly warn that her chances of surviving, much less living any kind of normal life, were next to zero. Dana did, however, go home from the hospital, just as her mother had predicted.

Five years later, Dana was a petite and feisty young girl with glittering gray eyes and an unquenchable zest

(Continued on page 2)



Message from Mr. Arndt

I hope you had as wonderful a summer as I have had this year. Family from Germany came to visit, and it was wonderful to show them all the sights and history we have here in Western New York. We also had a chance to catch up on how everyone is doing on both sides of the "pond" and share many of our favorite memories.

Of course, it hasn't been all family, fun, and games. As an organization, we have been concentrating on day-to-day operations at all our facilities and are preparing for our annual Department of Health surveys. Now that our state legislators finally passed the state's 2010 budget in August, we are working to ensure that the anticipated reimbursement cuts to health care in that budget won't detrimentally affect our ability to deliver the best care and services possible to each and every resident. I can only ask that you continue to communicate with your legislators about the importance of supporting care for our elderly population here in Western New York.

The summer also had a sad note — we lost some very dear, faithful and generous friends of the Guild and the Health System. (see page 3 for details).

I will miss Melba Seibold's music and generous spirit. For years before we had an official chaplain, Melba served as organist and music director for every worship service, often filling in when there was a scheduling miscommunication with pastors. She was also a generous donor to the Foundation and helped to spearhead many of our campaigns.

I will also miss Emily Renn coming into my office as Guild treasurer for so many years asking for my "wish list" and making sure the Guild made those "wishes" come true for the good of our residents. Bernie Heppel, too, was a long-time friend and former Guild president whose heart was with our residents.

But, I am convinced that God is watching over us.

(Continued on page 2)

PRESIDENT:
Florence Doran
EDITOR:
Vivian Cosentino
PRINTING:
Kathi Rickus
FOLDING: *Florence and Ronald Doran*
CIRCULATION:
Mary Ann Young and Mailing Crew

Next Meeting: THUR., SEPT. 16 (11:30AM - 2:30PM)

Lutheran Church Home, 217 East Delavan, Buffalo

11:30 Lunch: Hostesses: Ladies from Calvary, Amherst

Devotions with The Rev. Carl Schmidt

Program: "Life on Delaware Avenue at the Turn of the Century"
Presented by the Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society

RSVP to Florence by Mon., Sept. 13 836-6803



Footnotes from Florence

Dear Friends - Recently, members of the Board, who were able, gathered for our annual planning meeting and picnic at GreenField Court. We were all saddened to hear of the passing of Melba Seibold so soon after the funeral of Emily Renn. Both of these women will truly be missed, as will Bernie Heppel who died this spring. We thank God for their years of service and generous spirits.

Fortunately, other women have responded to serve on the board or in other capacities as volunteers. However, we now have several vacancies on the board. Elsie Megerle and Jan Steiner resigned from the board because of health considerations. We know they enjoyed their years of service and we appreciate their help in so many capacities. We will miss them too.

If you are looking for a rewarding experience and an opportunity to serve, look no further. Contact me at 836-6804 or any member of the board. We would be happy to talk to you, educate you about the board and what we do, and see if you would be interested in joining us. We also need help on some of our committees. Please call and join us. We know you won't regret it.

Good News! Because of the amount of money in our coffers due to the exceptionally successful fund raisers this spring, grants from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, a huge check from the GreenField Health & Rehabilitation Center's Gift Shop, and the Dash's Markets receipts program, the board voted to give a gift up to \$12,000 to the Niagara Lutheran Health Foundation (NLHF) for the improvement of the pond at The GreenFields. We know residents will be more than pleased when the project is completed. We thank Barney Baker, Director of Environmental Services for the Niagara Lutheran Health System for providing us with the information and plans for the pond that enabled the board to make an intelligent decision.

We are looking forward to our September meeting at the Lutheran Church Home. In addition to a delicious lunch, we have invited a representative from the Buffalo and Erie Country Historical Society to "give us a picture" of what life was like for a family who lived in a mansion on Delaware Avenue from 1890 to 1920. We think this will be a program residents of the home will enjoy as well as members who attend our Guild meeting. Remember! It is important that you call in your reservation as soon as possible. Thank you!

Thank you, too, to everyone who answered the survey concerning the Guild newsletter at the June luncheon. We are pleased that everyone was very positive in their responses. As a result of that survey we have established a Guild email account at NLHSGuild@yahoo.com. Send us an email to get your name on the list. And, I hope you will take time to read the requests for help in the rest of this newsletter, in addition to church schedules and birthdays of residents. If you have any suggestions for improving the newsletter, please contact Vivian Cosentino (the editor) or Mary Ann Young. I look forward to seeing you in September. If you are not able to attend, please keep the residents and the board in your prayers.

... Peace ~ Florence

PS: Please post the flyer for our "Fall Fun Fair" and start making your plans to participate.
We appreciate whatever you can contribute.

He Smells of Rain — (Continued from page 1)

for life. She showed no signs whatsoever of any mental or physical impairment.

But that happy ending is far from the end of her story. One blistering afternoon in the summer of 1996, Dana was sitting in her mother's lap in the bleachers of a local ball park where her brother's baseball team was practicing. She suddenly fell silent and hugging her arms across her chest and asked, "Do you smell that?" Smelling the air and detecting the approach of a thunderstorm, Diana replied, "Yes, it smells like rain." Dana closed her eyes and again asked, "Do you smell that?" Once again, her mother replied, "Yes, I think we're about to get wet. It smells like rain." Still caught in the moment, Dana shook her head, patted her thin shoulders with her small hands and loudly announced, "No, it smells like Him. It smells like God when you lay your head on His chest."

Tears blurred Diana's eyes as Dana happily hopped down to play with the other children. Before the rains came, her daughter's words confirmed what Diana and all the members of the extended Blessing family had known, at least in their hearts, all along. During those long days and nights of her first two months of life, when her nerves were too sensitive for them to touch her, God was holding Dana on His chest, and it is His loving scent that she remembered so well that day. ~Unknown

Mr. Arndt — (Continued from page 1)

Ladies like Melba, Emily, Bernie, and many, many others built the foundation upon which the Guild operates today, and He has blessed us with an influx of new Guild supporters who possess that same loving and serving attitude that has been evident for more than fifty years.

We could not accomplish all that we do without our very special volunteers and Guild members. I pray that God will continue to bless us and guide us all in our mission to serve others to the best of our abilities.

~ Jurgen Arndt

NEW - the Ceramics Club at NLHRC

Residents at NLHRC have been painting bisque ware and would like to do more, especially seasonal items for Fall, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Supplies can be costly and donations would be appreciated. Needed are:

- † Ready-to-paint bisque ware or fired ceramics (there is no kiln available, so green ware is not an option)
- † Acrylic paints of all colors (large and small bottles)
- † Paint brushes (assorted sizes)

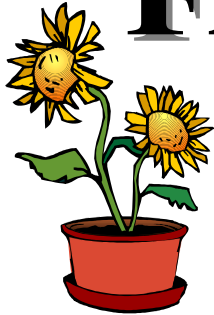
~ Your help is greatly appreciated!

Please mark your items for the NLHRC activities dept.



The NLHS Guild's Annual

FALL FUN FAIR



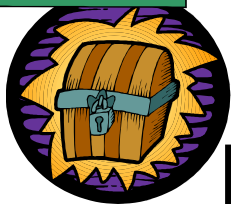
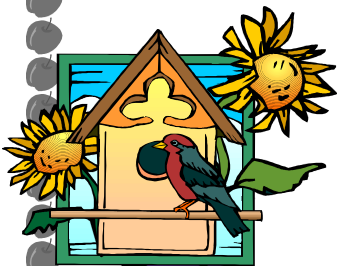
*Craft/Plant and
Bake Sale*

Thursday, Oct. 21, 2010

NLHRC Lobby

64 Hager Street ~ Buffalo

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



Baked Goods

**Plants, Crafts, Jewelry
Auntie Em's Collectibles**

full of "gently used" items

Bring your donations to 64 Hager Street at any time
and mark them for the Fall Fun Fair.

For more information, call Florence at 836-6803

*Matching funds are being requested through
The Erie County Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans*

Schedule of Weekly Worship Services with Holy Communion

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

9/5 Rev. David Ellis, *Amherst Lutheran, Wmsvl*
 9/12 Rev. Allen Griep, *NLHS Chaplain*
 9/19 Rev. David Menz, *All Saints, Hamburg*
 9/26 Rev. Devie Ellis, *St. Martin, NT*

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

9/5 Rev. Tom Mason, *Messiah, Lewiston*
 9/12 Rev. Troy Mulvaine, *Augustana, Ton.*
 9/19 Rev. Allen Griep, *NLHS Chaplain*
 9/26 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

9/4 Rev. Nancy Milleville, *Crossroads, Amherst*
 9/11 GHRC: Rev. Allen Griep, *NLHS Chaplain*
 GF Manor/Court: Mon., Sept. 13 at 1:00 p.m.
 Rev. Allen Griep, *NLHS Chaplain*
 9/18 Rev. John Klatt, *St. John's, WS*
 9/25 Rev. Edward Fehskens, *Faith, Elma*

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:

pastoralcare@NiagaraLutheran.org

Guild Email:

NLHSGuild@yahoo.com

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.

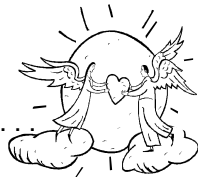
LCH: 1st Thursdays at 2:15 p.m.
 Rosary and Holy Communion on alternate Saturdays at 6:00 p.m.

GCM: Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.



We Remember

three good and faithful servants . . .
 volunteers and long-time Guild members . . .
 who have entered God's presence.



Melba Seibold faithfully provided music for worship and parties for residents for over 30 years and was also a very generous donor to the Niagara Lutheran Health System. Melba is also remembered as a true heroine who saved the lives of several children in the Cleveland Hill school fire In 1954.

Emily Renn was a long-time volunteer and one of the first Guild members. Emily served as Guild Treasurer for 19 years before she retired, just 3 years ago, at the age of 92.

Bernie Heppel, another active volunteer, served as Guild president during the 1980's. Bernie was one of the original, faithful Cleveland Hill Wed. night volunteers. ~ *Peace be with you til we meet again*

Residents' Birthdays

GHRC

9/7 Dorothy Ross
 9/16 Geraldine Bordonaro
 9/19 Antonietta Zaccaro
 9/19 Frank Morabito
 9/19 Jane Forsyth
 9/23 Belma Zynda
 9/23 George Waddy
 9/25 Sandra Neubig

NLHRC

9/5 Lenora Lunsford
 9/6 Elizabeth Washington
 9/9 Maria Schettino
 9/9 Mary Lambert
 9/10 Mildred Hill
 9/12 Heyward Pellam
 9/15 Maggie Carter
 9/15 Beatrice Fields
 9/16 Paralee Hubbard
 9/17 Jessie Lee
 9/18 Rosalia Russo
 9/22 Bernice Polite
 9/22 Faith McCoy
 9/22 India Anderson

9/24 Janet Gray

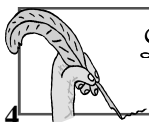
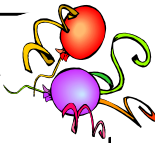
9/27 James Greene
 9/28 Clara Makowski
 9/30 Lucille Bailey
 9/30 Lillian Courtade

GFCourt

9/3 Isabel Rowland
 9/15 Francis Kozub
 9/16 Norman Diefenbach
 9/20 Blaine Sleeper
 9/21 Mary Elizabeth Morse
 9/26 Irving Eisenberg
 9/26 John Schultz

LCH

9/3 Catherine Floyd
 9/4 William Mobley
 9/8 Ivy Pope
 9/15 Melva Crews
 9/20 Florence Carmen
 9/23 Dan Tidwell
 9/24 Hilda Rodler
 9/30 Arwillis Easley
 9/30 Virginia Winkler



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



WISH LISTS

NLHRC: *Contact: Hellen Culverhouse at 886-4377*

NEW REQUESTS (available at dollar stores)

- † African American Hair Products/Hair accessories
- † Radios for residents rooms
- † Little Debbie packaged snack packs
- † Vaseline, Lipstick
- † **INTERNATIONAL travel books, DVDs, & Music**

GFCourt: *Contact: Lisa Scaglione at 684-8400*

- † BINGO PRIZES (including jewelry and knick knacks)

GHRC: *Contact: Jennifer Pellicane at 684-3000*

- † Decks of Cards
- † Gently used stuffed animals
- † Clings
- † BINGO prizes

LCH: *Contact: Joan Griffin at 882-1231*

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

THEME BASKETS



If you can donate one or more theme baskets for our Nov. and/or Dec. meeting, call Florence at 836-6803.

LOOKING FOR PROGRAM IDEAS for 2011

We are looking for suggestions for interesting and/or entertaining programs for our various meetings. Please call Florence at 836-6803 with your suggestions and contact information (*if you have it*).

ATTN SNOWBIRDS, VACATIONERS, ETC.



If you know you'll be away for any length of time, please help us know so we can avoid paying unnecessary Post Office costs. Call Gail Brown at (585) 493-5256.

GOOD NEWS about DASH'S TAPES

Keep sending in your Dash's register tapes! We are already well on our way to receive another check from Dash's.



VOLUNTEERS

Special Requests for Volunteers

- † **Transport LCH residents occasionally to & from appointments.** Call Joan at 882-1231.
- † **Transport NLHRC residents to and from worship** on Sunday afternoons from 2:00-3:30 p.m. at NLHRC— 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. Contact Hellen at 886-4377.

Tour of Homes at The GreenFields

Saturday, Sept. 11 from Noon - 3:00 pm

Residents of GreenField Manor (residential apartment homes) and Court (assisted living apartments) are proud of their homes and are inviting people to learn more about The GreenFields' Lifestyle that they have adopted. More than one resident has said, "I want other people to realize that moving to an apartment from a house can really be to their advantage. I have so much more time now to do the things I like, and I love the way my apartment looks. Everything seems newer and cleaner and is much easier to manage."



Refreshments include a FOUNTAIN OF CHOCOLATE. Tours of the entire GreenField Campus will be available. Call 684-8400 for details.



Find us on

Facebook

Facebook.com/NiagaraLutheran

Guild Meeting Schedule

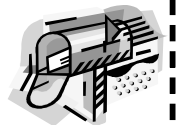
- OCT 21 FALL FUN FAIR at NLHRC
Program: Christmas Favors for Residents
- NOV 18 GF Manor Chapel & Aud
Program: Apron Stories with Willie Nantka
Bring an apron & a story to share
- DEC 9 12 pm CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION & FUNDRAISER at St. Mark's Lutheran, 576 Delaware Road, Kenmore. There will be theme baskets, door prizes and more.
Devotions: The Rev. Hans Irmer
Program: A special surprise is in store



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 # _____

*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



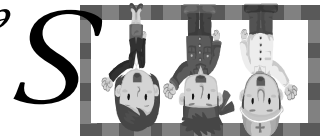
Buffalo

NIAGARA LUTHERAN HOME & REHABILITATION CENTER
LUTHERAN CHURCH HOME
NIAGARA LUTHERAN HEALTH FOUNDATION

Lancaster

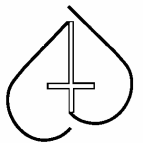
GREENFIELD HEALTH & REHABILITATION CENTER
GREENFIELD MANOR
GREENFIELD COURT

September
Labor Day is September 6



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