

19th Annual L.I. Festival of Trees Takes Place Thanksgiving Weekend

So Much to See and Enjoy!

Tis' the season to be jolly.... the season so many look forward to all year long. A time for giving and a time for getting but more often than not, a time of embracing the holiday season's goodwill and cheer. For over 19 years, the Festival of Trees has been a Long Island holiday tradition and a place for making memories. This year we invite you to attend the 2007 Festival on November 23rd, 24th & 25th at the Long Island Marriott in Uniondale, presented by our major sponsor, APS, LLC. The hours on Friday and Saturday are 11 am until 9 pm and Sunday from 11 am until 5 pm. The admission price is \$6 per person and children 2 and under are admitted free. With each paid child's admission, a cookie-decorating project is included. All proceeds raised benefit the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County, Inc. (ucpn).

The Festival promises to be more exciting and enjoyable than ever! The exhibit of designer-decorated trees (see list of participants) will include many of the most talented and sought-after designers, back with us due to popular



The Festival has something fun for all ages!

demand and is certain to be spectacular and inspiring. Highlights this year include an "American Idol" tree and a "High School Musical" tree. The extensive "Gingerbread Village," featuring over a hundred handmade creations by students from Joseph M. Barry Career and Technical Education Center's Culinary Arts program will truly get you in the holiday spirit and hungry for more!

The Festival would not be complete without the jolly old man in the red suit – yes, Santa, himself will be at the Festival all weekend. Children can visit with him and parents can take photos to savor! We have heard some of the elves whispering that their "Boss" is expecting a little help at the Festival from local politicians (including Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi on Friday!)

All the trees and gingerbread creations are for sale. There will be a wide selection of 6 ft trees as well as 3 ft trees. Delivery can be arranged for the large trees within a 20 mile radius and delivery is included in the price. The wonderful Dept. 56 Shoppe will be selling all their distinctive holiday collections and many hard-to-find retired pieces will be available at this elegant and festive shop. All the proceeds from the Dept. 56 sales go directly to ucpn. The Holiday Vendor marketplace will have lots of selections for your holiday shopping needs including pet products, unique giftware, jewelry, art, toys and more!

We are so pleased to present a varied program of great entertainment, including a special new "American Idol Stars" show planned for Friday and Saturday night from 6 until 7 pm. There are only 350 seats available for this special show within the Festival and tickets can be reserved in advance. \$15 includes entrance to the Festival and the Idol show. The idols stars are:

Kevin Covais: Long Island's own, Kevin was a fifth-season *American Idol* participant from Levittown. He was the second finalist eliminated from the competition making him the eleventh-place finalist.

Amanda Colucci: American Idol Semi finalist from Season 6. She comes from New Jersey. Known by American Idol fans as "Jersey Girl."

The Idol show will take place on Friday and Saturday from 6-7 pm. This slot includes a "meet & greet" with a photo opportunity and an autograph session and a raffle (that's included in the ticket price) to have dinner with the American Idol stars.

The Festival is honored to welcome the adorable and amazingly talented Julian Sage Miyata, a 12 year-old singer who has been

Nassau Thunderbolts Represent ucpn With Great Athleticism in Chicago

At the National Boccia competition held in August in Chicago the Nassau Thunderbolts represented ucpn with great athleticism and brought honor and distinction for the agency.

The trip to Chicago would normally take about 2 hours; however, a series of tornadoes touched down in the area resulting in a trek that took a grueling 10 hours. With a terribly delayed arrival at 3:00 am, Coach Mary C. Hodge and the other coaches had some concerns about how the event-filled trip would affect the team's performance. There was no need for worry however, because in true Thunderbolt spirit, the athletes dug deep and captured Silver and Bronze in the pairs competitions.

The Thunderbolts went on over the next 2 days to win 12 out of 20 matches in Individual play with all athletes in ramp and throwing division earning Silver or Bronze.

The hardworking and talented athletes



Bobby Jackson, former NY Jets cornerback visited with the Thunderbolts at an exhibition session they held.

that represented our agency with such honor and prestige are:

- Charlie Fleisch
- Howie Cohen
- Mark Paramidani
- Michael Salerno
- Keith Haarmann
- Danny Dalton

The Nassau Thunderbolts were also hon-
(continued on page 8)

(continued on page 11)

All Smiles at ucpn Dental Office



Dental Hygiene Month was recognized in October at ucpn. The dental area at the Fortunoff Treatment and Rehabilitation Center at ucpn serves children and adults with disabilities. The modern office suites are fully accessible with state-of-the-art equipment and the staff is caring and highly skilled. Call 516-378-2000 ext 251 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Please Donate!

I would like to help ucpn continue its mission of helping individuals with disabilities.

Here is my donation of \$ _____

Please charge to my credit card

Number: _____

Card Type: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

Please clip and mail to: ucpn, 380 Washington Avenue, Roosevelt, NY 11575
Attn: Development Dept

CS 11-07

Mark Your Calendar for These Events:

All to Benefit the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County, Inc. (ucpn)
Call 516-378-2000 ext. 651 to register or for information

Festival of Trees

Nov 23, 24, 25th – L.I. Marriott

Breakfast with Santa & Knight to Remember

December 2 – L.I. Marriott

Sugar Plum Ball

December 9 – L.I. Marriott

90 cents of every dollar raised goes directly towards programs and services at ucpn

Congratulations

to the
ucpn Forget-Me-Not Ball 2007 Honorees



James C. Herrmann

Harold Jay Greenberg Torch of Leadership Award



Barbara and Vincent Tavella

Dr. Jack and Kelly McElwain Humanitarian Award



Bea Wellens

Lifetime Achievement Award

ucpn CENTER SQUARE

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The ucpn meets all the
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President, Board of Directors

Robert McGuire
Executive Director

Annamaria Impagliazzo
President, Council of Auxiliaries

Charles Evdos
Development Director

Patricia Quinn
Editor

There are a variety of
opportunities
for employment and volunteers at ucpn.

Please contact us at
Human Resources - 516-377-2100
Coordinator of Volunteers - 516-377-2062

or visit our website at
www.ucpn.org

The Children's Learning Center Homecoming

This annual Fall Festival was enjoyed by all and special guests from Roosevelt Junior/Senior High School, including the Football Team and the Marching Band made it a spectacular celebration!



Lots to smile about at this Fall Festival!



Family members, students, staff and special guests all enjoyed the day!



CLC student, Nico enjoys making music with a member of the Roosevelt H.S. Marching Band.



Hay! Everyone enjoys this fun autumn tradition!



Miss Kate's pre-school class enjoys spending time with the Roosevelt H.S. Football Team after tossing the football around!

Everybody into the Pool: Aquatic Therapy Program at ucpn

By Elizabeth McCloud, COTA

This summer, an aquatic therapy program was established for the **ucpn** adult programs, which included Life Options and Site Based Day Hab. Barbara Feldman, Director of Life Options OT/PT Services and OT Supervisor of Article 28 Clinic and Elizabeth McCloud, COTA working in Article 28 Clinic, were the therapists involved in development and in providing treatment. Staff from Life Options and Site-Based Day Hab were very helpful in going in the water with participants for recreational purposes.

Aquatic therapy is exercise performed in the pool. It is an alternative therapy to land therapy. Aquatic therapy uses the physical properties of the water to provide patient healing and exercise. Aquatic therapy is a great activity for individuals of all abilities. It is becoming a popular modality that is being utilized to improve joint motion, mobility and ambulation. It is beneficial for people with developmental disabilities as it allows the body to move freely and be exercised in other ways that land therapies cannot achieve.

Aquatic therapy can be utilized to rehabilitate people with back problems and other orthopedic problems, cerebral palsy, arthritis and strokes. At **ucpn**, aquatic therapy in a heated pool can decrease muscle stiffness as some people with developmental disabilities have increased muscle tone



Nancy Pederson enjoys the pool at **ucpn** with Liz McCloud from the OT department

and tightness. The water provides buoyancy, which allows people the ability to move their limbs more easily. In some cases, aquatic therapy can allow someone to bear weight through their legs to stand and walk more easily. Benefits of aquatic therapy are to improve strength, endurance, flexibility, range of motion, balance and coordination, self-esteem and overall quality of life. Those who do not know how to swim can participate as well. Different types of equipment, including floatation devices like bars, noodles, vests and kickboards are used for people to participate in aquatic activity

This past summer, adults were seen individually and in a group for recreation. The pool area was newly revitalized, thanks to funding that Assemblyman Harvey Weisenberg procured in honor and memory of Warren L. Hittleman. New equipment was ordered including life jackets and a special wheelchair to transfer consumers safely in the pool.

It was a positive experience for the adults as they are able to get out of their wheelchairs and move freely in the water, laughing and having fun while getting therapeutic exercise too. Nancy Pederson, a participant in the Life Options Program here at **ucpn** enjoyed the benefits of aquatic therapy and commented, "The water makes me feel free and relaxed. The water makes it easier to move and I wish we could have aquatic therapy all year round. The water helps to decrease the pain and stiffness in my hips!"

In order to continue the program next summer, renovations are under way to install showers and order additional equipment for consumers at **ucpn** to continue to benefit from the effects of aquatic therapy.

LIFE OPTIONS

Written By
Nancy Pedersen, Teaching Assistant
Cathy Morelli, Life Studies Supervisor

Life Options is a unique adult program that was designed to provide the participants with the ability to make decisions about all the things that affect us throughout the day. I have been part of this program since it started in November 2005. It has proved to be a stimulating program. I am encouraged to look at things in different ways and explore things I've never experienced. My peers and I take classes based on our interests to learn about subjects where we have had limited exposure. Once a week we have the opportunity to go out into the community and take trips that are geared towards subjects we are learning about. We also get to work in the pre-vocational area once a week. There we learn how to work as a team to complete a job. Every two weeks we earn a paycheck for our efforts. When I look around, I can see how proud all of the program participants are when they receive that check for a job well done!

The other three days a week, we participate in a variety of classes. These classes change every few months and have included things like forensics, music and art appreciation, interviewing skills, writing children's stories, cooking, and computers. The exciting part of the program is that we get to move from classroom to classroom. We are not in one room for the whole day. We also get to attend seminars at least once a month on different topics. These seminars are given by professionals who work in the industry they are presenting on. They give us the opportunity to meet



The Life Options program recently held their First Annual Art Exhibit featuring original creations by many program participants.

with professionals from different fields, and learn about different types of careers.

Not only do I participate in classes, I am also a Teacher's Assistant. As a Teacher's Assistant I am able to help my peers with learning new skills. I can use my knowledge of different subjects to help others. I work alongside teachers and develop a curriculum that is utilized throughout the semester.



Nancy Pederson enjoys the ucpn Tilles Center Concert with her parents.

Teaching Assistants in Life Options make valuable contributions to the classes we assist in. There is a feeling of responsibility towards my peers, teachers, and the material that needs to be delivered. I take pride in the classes that I assist in teaching. I feel as if I am utilizing the knowledge I acquired throughout my years. If you look into the classrooms, you will find discussions taking place that are interesting and fun.

Life Options is a program that emphasizes a person's abilities, not their disabilities. Over the past two years, I feel that I have grown as a person. I look forward to going to Life Options each day.

When I look around, I see smiles on the faces of my peers and the staff who are working with them side by side. It is so much fun to be a

always part of such a wonderful there to program. I can't wait lend not only a hand, but guidance and help as well. to see what the future brings!

The result of all this synergy are volunteers who make a difference in the lives of those who enter our doors, and it's always done with a smile on their faces and a warm place in their hearts. Anyone interested in volunteering at our agency is encouraged to call (516) 377-2062 and visit our website for volunteer opportunities.

So much is new at ucpn from the volunteer corner.

Volunteer Focus groups are held periodically at the center where we brainstorm about what is working, and how we can improve volunteers' needs while meeting our agency's goals. These groups are well attended and I thank all the volunteers for your suggestions and feedback. The ucpn had a table at the first Long Island Volunteer Fair at Farmingdale College on October 4. Much thanks to volunteers Harriett Rand, Dorothy Neal and Mattie Davis, for helping at the volunteer booth. Our Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon was held on October 11. Plaques were given to Gerald Fay, Alice Mihajlovic and Mary Trupia for 15 years of volunteerism at ucpn, and Harri Meyers received a 5-year plaque for her service.

Volunteer's Corner

By Elizabeth Katz
Coordinator of Volunteers

Our volunteer-driven special events are right around the corner, and everyone is enthusiastic about donating their time and energies to The Teddy Bear Tea, Breakfast with Santa, Sugar Plum Ball, and of course, Festival of Trees.

On a personal note, as we increase our volunteer base both at our agency and at our events, I want to thank and acknowledge not only our valuable volunteers, but also their supervisors for the easy transition that the volunteers experience once orientation is complete. Included in the smooth behind-the-scenes assistance is the Human Resources Department and Nursing, who are



At the Annual ucpn Volunteer Luncheon

4th Annual Toast of the Town – *The Place to Be!*

The **ucpn's** 4th Annual "Toast of the Town" gourmet food and wine tasting extravaganza was held on September 26th at the Chateau Briand in Carle Place. Almost 400 guests enjoyed culinary delights and beverages from over 35 restaurants, bakeries and wine and spirits establishments while helping to raise significant funds for **ucpn**. The Chairpeople of the event, Joe Mandaro and Kathy Wilson, along with their dedicated committee did a magnificent job of organizing an evening of fun, food and entertainment that was enjoyed by all. The sounds of jazz filled the air thanks to the talented *Levi Barcourt and the NY Jazz Quartet* performing in the DaVinci Room and *Just Jazz* mixing it up in the Saturnia Room. The spectacular Chateau Briand provided an elegant atmosphere and comfortable setting for the hundreds of guests to enjoy their sampling fare.

The participation of the American Culinary Federation – Long Island Chapter was a welcome addition to the event's proceedings. Our distinguished wine judges also brought prestige and flair to the tasting process.

The **ucpn** is very grateful to all the participating food and spirits establishments and to the evening's sponsors, Citibank, James C. Herrmann & Associates, LTD, Louis Koch Insurance Agencies and Mutual of America for their generosity. In addition, the **ucpn** is grateful to all the guests, volunteers and prize donors who helped make the event such a success. Over \$50,000 was raised thanks to the generosity of all involved!



The 2007 Toast of the Town Committee: (seated l. to r.) Carolyn Kapuvari, Mary Brosky, Kathy Wilson, (standing l. to r.) Joe Mandaro, Jonathan Knox, Bob McGuire, Ray Murphy, Tony Galano, Charles Evdos



Guests enjoyed delectable treats all evening.



Brett and Monica Cohen and Christine and Matthew Silver



Joe Koch, from Louis Koch Insurance Agencies, Charles Evdos and David Lynch from Mutual of America



ucpn's Mary Brosky (center) joins Event Co-Chairs, Joe Mandaro and Kathy Wilson

2007 Toast of the Town Judges

Food Categories

Judged by Members of the American Culinary Federation – Long Island Chapter
Christopher Neary, CEC, CCA
Edlerman Molina
Lawrence Weiss CCC, CCE, AAC
Peter Ilesing, CEC, CCA

Wine Categories

Joseph Sheehy
Arne Johnson
Carolyn Kapuvari



Ed Molina and Chris Neary announce Winners



Arlene and Joe Koch

2007 Toast of the Town Award Winners

Restaurants

First Place - The Mansion at the Woodlands
Second Place - Burton & Doyle
Third Place - Heritage of India

Desserts

First Place - Sweet Karma
Second Place - Taste of Home
Third Place - La Bonne Boulangerie

Best Table

Mim's Restaurant

People's Choice

Taste of Home

Best Sparkling Wine -

Gold - LENZ, Vintage Cuvee, 2000, Long Island (The LENZ Winery)
Silver - Nando, Fio di Pesco, Piedmont, Italy (Fedway Imports)
Bronze - Nando, Fragolino, Piedmont, Italy (Fedway Imports)

Best White Wine -

Gold - Ferrari-Carano, Fume Blanc, 2006, Sonoma County (Southern Wines)
Silver - Prospero, Chardonnay, 2005, Monterey, California (Supreme Wines)
Bronze - LENZ, Chardonnay White Label, 2004, Long Island (The LENZ Winery)

Best Red Wine -

Gold - LENZ, Estate Merlot, 2001, Long Island (The LENZ Winery)
Silver - Prospero, Cabernet Sauvignon, 2002, Sonoma, California (Supreme Wines)
Bronze - Col di Sasso, Cabernet Sauvignon/Sangiovese, 2005, Tuscany, Italy (Banfi)



Arne Johnson, Joseph Sheehy and Carolyn Kapuvari at Wine Judging



Sweets from Sweet Karma

Participating Restaurants

57 Main Street Imports, Garden City
Angellina's II, Syosset
Banfi, Old Brookville
Burton & Doyle Steak House, Great Neck
Ciao Baby, Massapequa Park
Cakes By Mona
California Pizza Kitchen, Huntington Station
Chachama Grill, East Patchogue
Chateau Briand, Carle Place
Coffee Distributing Group, Garden City Park
Collins & Main, Sayville
Empire Merchants
Fedway Imports
Fiddleheads, Oyster Bay
Fox Hollow, Woodbury
Heritage of India, New Hyde Park
La Bonne Boulangerie, East Norwich

Legal Seafood, Huntington Station
Lenz Winery, Peconic
Love & Quiches, Freeport
The Mansion at the Woodlands, Woodbury
Messina Market & Catering
Mims, Roslyn Heights
Morton's Steakhouse, Great Neck
RUVU Restaurants
Sagamore Steakhouse, Syosset
Seventh Street Cafe, Garden City
Sidney Frank Imports
Southern Wine & Spirits
Stew Leonard's, Farmingdale
Sweet Karma Desserts, East Meadow
A Taste of Home Bakery & Sweet Shop, N. Bellmore

4th Annual Benefit Concert for ucpn: "Be My Love, The Life of Mario Lanza in Song" *A Resounding Success*

On Sunday, October 14, The Nassau Pops Symphony Orchestra presented its Fourth Annual Concert to benefit the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County, Inc. (ucpn) to a full house at the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts. "Be My Love, The Life of Mario Lanza in Song" included a cast of nine hugely talented vocalists who beautifully presented many of the songs immortalized by Mario Lanza, including "Be My Love," "With a Song in My Heart," "Arrevederci Roma," and "Because You're Mine."

The concert was opened by ucpn's own singing group, *Creation*. This was *Creation's*

fourth appearance at the Tilles Center and the members who appeared this year were Chris Wawrzonek, David Tindal, Melissa Herrera and Riva Zinno. It was a very meaningful way to open the program and the audience reacted to the group's talent and skillful renditions of "You Raise Me Up," "What a Wonderful World," and "High Hopes" with three standing ovations.

The ucpn was so pleased to be a part of this concert version of a soon-to-be-released Broadway musical written by award-winning playwright, Richard Vetere, and directed by critically acclaimed director Charles Messina.

The musical is being produced by television and film producer of *French Connection* fame, Sonny Grosso, and legendary Grammy and Academy Award winning music producer, Phil Ramone. The agency is truly grateful to Lou Panacciuilli

and the Nassau Pops Symphony and everyone else involved for their talent and generosity.

Born Alfredo Arnold Coccozza on January 31, 1921 in Philadelphia of Italian immigrants, Mario Lanza, who eventually took his stage name from the masculine version of his mother's maiden name, Maria Lanza, developed a deep appreciation of opera at a very early age. Under the loving encouragement of his mother, he listened to and learned about the stories of the great operas, his most profound influence being the great Enrico Caruso. *Be My Love* chronicles the life of Mario Lanza from these early days in Philadelphia through his years with MGM, countless live performances, over 400 recordings, and eventually back to Rome where his life came to a premature and tragic end in October of 1959.



Phil Ramone, Lou Panacciuilli and Bob McGuire after the concert. Mr Ramone is holding art done by a student from the Children's Learning Center that was a gift from ucpn.



Backstage with Bob McGuire and *Creation* and cast members Julian Sage Miyata, Gayle Scott and Lou Moneta.



The cast serenades the audience with another fabulous song!

Holiday Fun For Everyone & Help Raise Funds For ucpn

All Proceeds Benefit
The United Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County, Inc.
ucpn Assists Over 1,800 Children & Adults With Disabilities

Festival of Trees

Nov. 23rd, 24th, 25th
Fri. & Sat. 11am-9pm; Sun. 11am-5pm

American Idol Stars Show

Nov. 23rd & 24th 6-7PM

Tickets to Idol Show: \$15 includes admission to Festival and the Idol show which includes autograph and raffle ticket. Only 350 seats available. Reserve today!!

Tickets At Door, All Ages Welcome. Array of Designer Decorated Trees & Gingerbread Village, Entertainment, Kids Activities, Raffles & Vendors

Tickets: \$6 Per Person, Kids Under 2 Are Free (Paid Admission For Kids Includes Kid's Activity)

LI Festival of Trees

Nov. 23, 24, 25
LI Marriott in Uniondale

\$2.00 off

Price of Admission

For information call 516-378-2000 ext. 651
www.ucpn.org

All proceeds benefit the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County, Inc.
Valid for one admission only - NO cash value

Knight To Remember

Dec. 2nd

4:30-7:30PM

For Boys Ages 5-12 & Their Special Lady (Moms, Grandmas or Aunts)
Entertainment, Food & Prizes

Tickets: \$115 Per Couple (\$65/Adult @ \$50/Child)
Advance Reservations Required

Breakfast with Santa

Dec. 2nd

9:30-11AM

Face Painting,
Raffles, Treats,
Goodie Bag &
Dancing

Tickets: \$25 Per Person
Advance Reservations Required

Sugar Plum Ball

Dec. 9th

12-3PM OR 5-8PM

Dinner Dance
For Girls Ages 5-12 &
Their Dads,
Grandpas or Uncles

Tickets: \$145 Per Couple (\$85/Adult @ \$60/Child)
Advance Reservations Required

ALL EVENTS WILL BE HELD AT L.I. MARRIOTT HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER IN UNIONDALE, NY

CALL FOR TICKETS TODAY! 516-378-2000 x651

or Visit Our Website at www.ucpn.org

Thank You to Our Major Sponsors

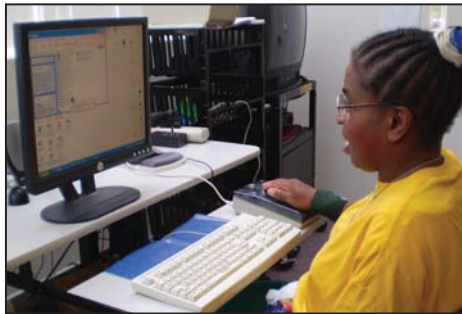
The Natalie Paymer Innovative Technology Center at ucpn

By Joan Tanenhaus, Computer Access Specialist

The Natalie Paymer Innovative Technology Center at ucpn offers on-going services in the area of Assistive Technology/Computer Assisted Speech-Language therapy. Consumers serviced present with a variety of disabilities and skill levels, such as Cerebral Palsy, Developmental Disabilities, Stroke, Head Trauma, ALS, and Expressive and Receptive Language Disorders. Children and adults are evaluated and treated through a variety of funding sources, such as but not limited to Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance, School Districts and VESID. Services are provided to individuals who attend programs at United Cerebral Palsy of Nassau (Life Options, Site-Based Day Hab, Community-Based Day Hab, and Children's Learning Center) as well as those from the community.

As part of the Assistive Technology services, consumers receive a computer access evaluation and are then provided with adaptive equipment and software recommendations that will enable them to independently use the computer for learning and recreation. Adaptive equipment can range from low technology solutions, such as keyguards, adapted pens/pencils, head-pointers to high tech solutions such as specialized software programs, mouse emulation, and other adaptive hardware.

Because of motor difficulties, consumers sometimes require an enlarged keyboard or a



Using a switch to operate the keyboard.

mini-keyboard depending on their range of motion. Others might have difficulty with a standard mouse and can benefit from the use of a touch screen, adapted trackballs, joysticks, speech directed mouse controls or the use of the keyboard for mouse functions. For those who cannot directly access the computer, switches can be used to interface with specialized software programs, including on-screen keyboards, that let them interact with all computer activities, such as Internet access, email, games, and educational resources. Those that have Augmentative and Alternative Communication devices that allow for computer access are given training on how to interface them to produce common computer functions such as word processing. Individuals with visual difficulties may benefit from screen magnifiers, screen readers and visually presented adjustments such as high contrast.

Along with intensive training on using the appropriate Assistive Technology, consumers are able to work on improving cognitive skills and receptive and expressive language skills, including written language skills, vocabulary development, and literacy.

There are a variety of software programs to develop and/or facilitate cognitive skills, including but not limited to cause and effect skills, memory, attention, sequencing, organi-

zational skills, and problem solving. Others are available that stress the development of specific vocabulary, auditory comprehension, following directions, and linguistic skills. Literacy training can include the use of talking word processors that will speak letters, words and sentences aloud to assist in monitoring and correcting written language. Other software adaptations include word prediction programs that guess the word the person is typing, an online speaking dictionary, screen readers that can read aloud a document or website, along with other supported reading and writing tools. Written text can be produced using pictures/communication symbols as well as letters and words.

At all times, consumers are encouraged and helped to carry-over these computer and language skills into other settings, such as home, classrooms and work areas. Teacher, staff and family training is provided to facilitate use across all environments. Evaluations and therapy sessions are predominantly conducted at the Innovative Technology Center but off-site evaluations can be arranged.

For additional information or referrals, please contact Mary Jean Dyczko, M.A. CCC/SLP, TSHH, ATP at (516) 378-2000, extension 337.



The joystick helps bring new possibilities.



Ready for a visit to the Innovative Technology Center

Attention All Teachers in Nassau County

By Michelle Gevirtz
Development Coordinator

Trivia Challenge is a fun, educational special fundraising event that involves students in grades 3rd – 12th throughout Nassau County. It teaches “our children” about ucpn’s 1,800 children and adults with cerebral palsy and other developmental disabilities. They also learn about the special needs of our population and how to fundraise for a good cause.

Teachers that wish to participate and get their students involved are sent a 100-question test that they administer to their students provided by ucpn. These students are put into groups of four and take the test together. Whoever has the highest score from their grade level will come to our agency to represent their school in the Finals to compete for the Trophy cup to be displayed in their school for the year. Each student

fundraises by getting their family and friends to sponsor them based on how many questions they answer correctly on the test. We reward each student with prizes based on how much money they raise. Last year, we raised almost \$80,000. The students had so much fun participating and they look forward to it every year.



At the 2007 Trivia Challenge Finals Competition at ucpn

Please contact Michelle Gevirtz, Development Associate and Trivia Challenge Coordinator at 516.378.2000 ext. 651 or via e-mail mgevirtz@ucpn.org. We also have associates that will come to your school to provide a presentation on our population and to explain further details on our Trivia Challenge event. We hope you will get your school involved in this opportunity so that we at ucpn will have the opportunity to educate your students about children and adults with special needs.

Brief History of the Nassau Thunderbolts

By Mary C. Hodge, Head Coach and Consultant for U.S. Paralympics

The Nassau Thunderbolts (an Adult Competitive Sports team) has been in existence for 18 years.

In the beginning the team was a sports club that traveled to different events to compete with other athletes with Cerebral Palsy.

In 1990, the team decided to make a commitment to represent UCP Nassau competitively.

The team voted on a name and logo. The logo was taken from the front wall of the old building at UCP, which depicts a bolt running between C/P, hence the Thunderbolts.

Since this time, the Thunderbolts have traveled competitively to many states in the country.

We compete in Regional events (in the New England area) yearly and try to qualify for

National events. Both events are sanctioned by **NDSA** - National Disability Sports Alliance & **USP** - United States Paralympic Organization, the governing bodies under which we compete.

The team is proud to boast that we have the National Champion in CP sports in the 82.5 kilograms category in Powerlifting for the past 5 years. This athlete also competed in the World Powerlifting Championship in Dubai, Saudi Arabia in 1998 representing Team USA.

We are also proud to say that we are the silver medalists, for the past three years at the National Competition in Boccia (teams play).

We had two coaches represented at the 2000 Paralympics in Sydney, Australia. Paralympics are the pinnacle for sports for athletes with

disabilities. This event runs three weeks after the Olympics, always in the same venue.

In 2001 for the first time, one of our athletes competed on the Team USA squad in Portugal at the World Boccia Competition. Two of our coaches were also named to this squad, one as the Head Coach of the squad. In 2003 the team will realize our second athlete to compete for TEAM USA in Boccia at the World Games in New Zealand.

I was named Head Coach of Team USA for Powerlifting for the Paralympic Games in Athens, Greece for 2004; Team Leader for World Powerlifting Championships in 2006 and Head Coach of 2007 Para Pan American Powerlifting Team.

Boccia Coach, Jim Thomson was named Head Coach of Team USA Boccia for 2004 Paralympics in Athens, Greece.

The Thunderbolts practice every Saturday from 9-12 noon, 11 months a year, except holidays.

We currently train in Field, Boccia and Powerlifting in the adaptive gym facility located in **ucpn** Nassau complex.

Nassau Thunderbolts in Chicago

(continued from page 1)

ored by NDSA (National Disabled Sporting Association) for their 20 years of competition and participation in the Disabled Sports movement for athletes with disabilities at the banquet held at the end of the tournament. Coach Hodge expressed the thanks and gratitude of the team, "It is because of all of the support of **ucpn** that the team has been able to compete for so long and we would like to express how grateful we are for that encouragement!"

In 2008, the Nassau Thunderbolts will celebrate their 20th Anniversary and in the Spring there will be a variety of special commemorative events to mark this special occasion. Thunderbolts Head Coach, Mary Hodge also holds the prestigious title of Head Coach for the United States Paralympics Powerlifting Team and serves as a Consultant for the U.S. Paralympics. As a result of Mary's distinguished affiliations, the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County, Inc. has been selected as the site for the 2008 Team USA Weightlifting Camp. This is a program that is run in conjunction with the Paralympics every 4 years and hosts award-winning athletes from across the nation and draws media attention from around the world.

The camp will serve as a basic training clinic to look at strength as well as technique and training cycles as well as a USADA (United States Anti-Doping clinic). The 2008 Olympics will be held in Beijing.

We invite you to
visit our website

www.ucpn.org

Try using www.goodsearch.com
as your search engine and help raise
funds for **ucpn** each time you search!



Left to Right front row: Howie Cohen, Charlie Fleisch, Jim Thomson (Coach), Mark Paramidani, Michael Salerno. Left to Right back row: Troy McPherson (Assistant Head Coach), Keith Haarmann, Mary C. Hodge (Head Coach), Will Lowry (Coach) Bert Sandstrom, Kathy Murphy (Coach) and Ken Siderine (Coach). Danny Dalton (athlete) not pictured.

SAVE THE DATE!

4th Annual

**POLAR BEAR:
BREAK THE ICE
EVENT**

March 9th
2008

Roosevelt Park, Oyster Bay
12:30 p.m.





The 25th Annual ucpn Golf and Tennis Tournament Held at North Hills



The 25th Annual **ucpn** Golf and Tennis Tournament was held on August 2nd at the North Hills Country Club in Manhasset. Almost 200 participants enjoyed a day of fabulous golf and tennis under sunny, blue skies at the exquisite North Hills facility.

The event Co-chairmen, Sonny Grosso, Jr. and Joel Paymer, along with their committee members did a spectacular job, making this year's event a great success and a true tribute to the 25th anniversary of this prestigious tournament.

The first golfers teed off shortly after sunrise and later at 5:30 pm, the group gathered on the course for the Million Dollar Shootout.

There were 11 golfers who qualified to take a shot at a "hole in one" and the chance at the million dollar prize. Tennis started at about 9 am and continued throughout the day to the enjoyment of the participants.

A highlight of the dinner ceremonies was the presentation of the first **MARIO PARAMADANI AWARD**. This award was established in honor of and in tribute to one of the founders of the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County, Inc.'s Annual Golf and Tennis Tournament. The first annual award was presented to Mario's son, Mark Paramadani for all his accomplishments and to celebrate and commemorate the 25th

Anniversary of this prestigious event. Mark shared his thoughts upon being selected for this honor with the over 200 dinner guests in an inspiring speech. His thoughtful, caring words about his father and mother and all that **ucpn** means to him were met with rousing applause and a standing ovation by the crowd that was clearly moved by his experiences and courage.

We again want to thank our Chairmen, Sonny Grosso, Jr. and Joel Paymer, our sponsors, prize donors, guests, committee members and friends who helped to make this 25th anniversary event a huge success.



Full house at the 25th Annual Golf and Tennis Dinner gathering

Thank You to our Major Sponsors:

- Camera Land and Pentax
- APS
- Leica
- Fuji Photo Film USA
- InterSec Protection, Inc.
- The Portrait Shoppe



Phil Dissinger's impressive form (and shorts) were the talk of the day!



Mark Paramadani speaks using his communication device with inspiring words about what **ucpn** has meant to him



Mel Stein presents Sonny Grosso, Jr. with a personalized Yankee jersey in appreciation for all his dedication to this event



Committee member Mike Baker and his foursome at the hole he sponsored



Mark Paramadani accepts his award surrounded by his Mom, Sonny Grosso Jr. and Bob McGuire



Committee Co-Chair Joel Paymer speaks to the guests at dinner



Sonny Grosso, Jr. congratulates his son after his great attempt at the "Million Dollar Shootout"

ucpn Wish List



Building Campaign to Expand Classrooms	\$ 625,000
Leisure Services Program	\$ 225,000
Fiber Optic Evaluation Equipment	\$ 41,000
Renovations to Plainview House	\$ 35,000
Pet Therapy	\$ 26,000
20 New Computers with Printers	\$ 20,000
Body Pressure Mapping System	\$ 12,000
Math Curriculum	\$ 9,000
Augmentative Communication Device	\$ 7,000
OT Ice-Pack Machines, Fluid Therapy, Ultrasound	\$ 5,000
Electric Combination Tilt Table	\$ 4,100
Three Laptop Computers	\$ 3,600
Tablet Computer with infra-red joystick	\$ 3,000
Computer Software & Printer – Com. Based Day Hab	\$ 1,500
Word Plus w/ Destalk Synthesizer	\$ 1,500
Automatic Page Turner	\$ 1,100
Special Education Learning Software	\$ 1,000
Therapeutic Toys	\$ 1,000
Pocket Viewer Magnifier	\$ 1,000
Sponsor Athlete for National Competition	\$ 1,000
Lower Level Augmentative Communication Device	\$ 900
Self Feeding Device	\$ 900
Zoom Text and Screen Reader for Windows XP	\$ 700
Missing Link Block Set	\$ 700
Batteries for Wheelchairs	\$ 700
Radial Arm Drill Press	\$ 600
Communication for Visually Impaired	\$ 600
Augmentative Communication Device	\$ 500
Sponsor a Leisure Services Trip for 10 Individuals	\$ 400
Sponsor 1 Individual for One Year of Bowling	\$ 400
Activity Supplies for Two Events for our Children and Adults	\$ 300
Spiral Binding Machine	\$ 250
Purchase New Set of Books for our Classrooms	\$ 200
Portable Blood Pressure Kit	\$ 100
Craft Supplies	\$ 100

If you want to make a wish come true, please contact Charles Evdos, ucpn Development Director at (516) 378-2000 ext. 648

You hold the KEYS to helping children and adults with disabilities...

Donate your Car, RV or Boat and help the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County, Inc.

For details and a donation form see our website at www.ucpn.org or call 516-378-2000 ext. 648

Any condition, no hassle, free pickup, 7 days a week!
Tax deduction based on car resale.



United Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County, Inc.
Assisting individuals with disabilities since 1948

ucpn Planned Giving We All Need a Will

by Jeff Steele

Evidence suggests that the older we are, the more likely it is that we've written a will. But with life's uncertainties, a will is a good idea at any age.

If you own property of any kind, whatever your age – whether you're single or married, a parent or childless – you need a will. It is essential for the protection of your loved ones and to provide for any organizations you may wish to help. Whenever your relationships and life circumstances change – as they inevitably do – revising your will can be accomplished with a simple codicil, or you can choose to change your will entirely.

There is no better time than now, while the idea is fresh, to plan for your will. We'd be glad to answer any questions you have after reading this article, and assist you and your advisors.

What happens if I die without a will?

More than half of all Americans – the majority, in fact – die intestate (without a will). The Uniform Probate Code, adopted at least in part by 18 states, dictates how your property is distributed if you do not have a will. As good as that Code may be, it can't possibly reflect your specific wishes for family, friends and favorite charitable organizations.

In summary, the Code provides for surviving family members in the following ways:

- Surviving spouse – all property passes to the spouse.
- Surviving spouse and one child – half of your property passes to your spouse and the other half to the child.
- Surviving spouse and two or more children – one-third of your property passes to the spouse and the remainder is divided in equal shares among the children.
- No spouse and no children – the property is evenly divided between your parents. If no parents are living, it is evenly divided among the descendants of the parents.
- No living relatives – the property reverts to the state.

Do I need an attorney to draft my will?

Although not legally required, it is wise to hire an attorney to draft your will to ensure that it is legally acceptable and accomplishes exactly what you intend. For example, you may want your will to address some of the following objectives:

- Name the person who will see that the provisions of your will are carried out.
- Distribute personal property as you intended, or promised to others, during your life.
- Established trusts to save taxes and provide financial management.
- Name the guardian of your minor children.

How do I leave gifts to charitable organizations in my will?

If you would like to support the mission of a particular charitable organization, make sure the bequest is precisely designated in your will.

You can specify a certain item, a specific sum of money, a percentage of your estate or the remainder of your estate once other bequests, debts and taxes have been paid. In return, your estate receives an estate tax charitable deduction for the amount of the gift.

Trusts created by your will at your death can be excellent ways to provide for loved ones and help charitable organizations. Several options are available, and we would be pleased to discuss with you the particulars of each.

Current federal tax law provides substantial incentives – and a wide variety of options – for donating to charity during your lifetime as well as through your estate. Some can even generate income to supplement your pension or retirement plan.

For a free wills kit or information about income-producing gifts, call Charles Evdos at (516) 378-2000, ext. 648. Charles welcomes your inquiries, and can arrange a confidential, no-obligation appointment.

L.I. Festival of Trees (continued from page 1)



Jake Berger, along with Santa and Edward Evergreen delight the Festival audience!



Sharing a special moment with Santa at the Festival



A beautiful tree decorated by the Nassau Homemakers

hailed in the media as a “pint-sized Powerhouse Performer” and a “young singing sensation.” He is currently working with Sonny Grosso and Phil Ramone on a Broadway show about the life of Mario Lanza. Julian will have you awestruck when you hear him perform on Saturday at 8 pm.

The Leggz Ltd. Dance Ensemble of Rockville Centre will entertain us on Friday and Saturday with their fancy footwork. This energetic group performs annually at Walt Disney World, on the Today show, Fox 5 Good Day NY, News 12, Madison Square Garden, and they have also been featured numerous times in national magazines including *Dancer*, *Dance Spirit* and *Dance Teacher*.

There will be lots of family friendly entertainment including World Champion Ballroom dancers Mark James and Michael Rodriguez and the recent World Champion Ballroom dancers from the children’s division and a performance of Disney’s High School Musical by “Kids Performing Who Kare,” a licensed cast. World-class musicians — The Children’s Orchestra Society will be featured during the weekend too. This prestigious orchestra performs at Carnegie Hall and throughout the United States. “Magic By Vinny” is certain to intrigue and entertain!

Long Island performers include some of the best shining stars the Festival of Trees has ever seen; including: the St. Agnes Cathedral Choir, the Hagen School of Irish Dance and the Kellenberg Memorial High School Gregorian Consortium and Latin School Chorus. In addition, the top finalists of Nassau County’s annual singing competition “Reach for the Stars” will be center stage.

Radio Disney will have a booth near the stage all day Saturday and will have give-a-ways, contests and prizes.

The Festival of Trees would not be possible without the help of hundreds of caring volunteers who do everything from decorate trees, make ornaments, help at the Festival and we are grateful to all our supporters in the community who make this annual event so fun and successful. Our thanks to all the designers, bakers, entertainers, and others who lend their time and talent to this holiday extravaganza that helps raise such significant funds for the **ucpn**. We invite everyone to come to the Festival and enjoy holiday fun and help raise funds for the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County, Inc.

Trees on Display at the Festival '07

Designer	Tree Title
Leggz Ltd. Dance of Rockville Centre and Capezio Dancewear	A Ballerina Dream
Barbara Teepe and June Nagy	Firefighter's Dream Tree
Greens-Keeper of Nassau, Inc.	There Are Angels Among Us
Long Island Keepsakers	Hopping Into Christmas
Serge Alaverdian	Nutcracker Suite
Serge Alaverdian for Garden World	Heavenly Choir
"Happiness is Belonging" Precious Moments Local Chapter Club	Our Precious Moments Stars
Crafty Ladies of the Parkway Community Church, Hicksville	Gifts of Love
Peggy Bridgewater	Christmas Sparkle
Peggy Bridgewater	Tickled Pink & Red
METRO Parrot Head Club	Key West
Karen & Tiffany Kiefel	Beanie Babies
Suffolk County Homemakers Council	White and Wonderful
Kristi Halpern for Lion Ribbon	Christmas Colors
American Idol Stars	American Idol Christmas
Kids Performing Who Kare	Kids Who Kare High School Musical
Carol Ann Izzo	Christmas Made Easy
IDC Service Club - Wisdom Lane School, Levittown	Barking Around the Christmas Tree
Lynne E. DiStasio	A Woodland Tree
UCP Bayville	A Psychedelic Christmas
Flowers By Voegler	Let It Bling
Syosset Garden Club	Fairy Merry Holidays To All
Nassau County Homemakers	No Folks Like Snow Folks
Baldwin Homemakers	Winter's Haven
Franklin Square Red Hats	Ageless Angels
Long Island Quilting Society and Quilters in the Park	Quilt Block Memories in Memory of Caroline Hunka
Long Island Children's Museum	Joyous Blue Notes
Stephanie Hulse & Cookie Karp	A Country Christmas



"Kids on the Block" Puppet Presentation

This charming program is geared towards children in grades 2 and 3. Longtime **ucpn** volunteer and parent, Vera Schwartz and consumer, Nancy Pederson help children have a better understanding of people with disabilities with the help of an adorable puppet. Call 516-378-2000 ext 355 to arrange a visit to your school or community group.

Director's Message



Robert McGuire
Executive Director

Clearly, we have been busy and it is about to get even busier! Our biggest fundraising event of the year, the 19th Annual Festival of Trees is being held on Thanksgiving weekend at the Marriott in Uniondale. As you will read in this issue, it promises to be a terrific way to kick off the holiday season. Please join us and experience all the great things that the Festival has to offer. I

salute all the great volunteers and other friends in the community who help us produce this huge event each year that helps raise awareness as well as significant funds for our agency. Our other events including the Knight to Remember, Breakfast with Santa and the Sugar Plum Ball are true family favorites and we encourage you to make your reservations early!

Our Golf and Tennis Tournament commemorated its 25th anniversary this summer. What an accomplishment! We welcomed over 400 guests at our 4th Annual "Toast of the Town" event held in September at the Chateau Briand. I extend my thanks and congratulations to the Committees who worked on these events and offer my greatest appreciation for their hard work and dedication. In addition, we are truly grateful to the sponsors and donors who added to the great success of these events.

Our 4th Annual benefit concert by the Nassau Pops Symphony Orchestra titled "Be My Love - The Life of Mario Lanza in Song" was an astounding success and we hope you were among the standing room only crowd at the Tilles Center to experience this delightful and exciting program. Our own singing group, CREATION made us proud once again! We are indebted to Lou Panacciulli and the Symphony and the cast and producers of this show.

Our 55th Annual Forget-Me-Not Ball was a great occasion to honor special individuals who have provided great support to our agency including Barbara and Vincent Tavella, James C. Herrmann and Bea Wellens. Congratulations are also in order to Christine Bartol who was honored at the Council of Auxiliaries Fashion Fantasy event and to Teri Siegel, who was named *Volunteer of the Year* by the Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State.

Great things are happening in all our programs too. This issue will provide a look at some of the inspiring innovations and accomplishments occurring in Life Options, the Children's Learning Center, the Occupational Therapy Department, the Innovative Technology Center and the Nassau Thunderbolts Sports Team.

I hope all this good news will motivate you to get involved with our agency. It is only with the support of caring individuals and generous

Council President's Message



Annamaria Impagliazzo
Council of Auxiliaries
President

All of our Auxiliaries have been working hard raising funds and awareness for **ucpn**. The Plainedge Auxiliary held their annual "Buddy Baseball" event and it was a wonderful day for the children and teens who participated. We wish this event garnered the attention that Joe Torre got!!! The North Valley Stream Golf Tournament was a spectacular success once again. Our thanks to Barbara and Vincent Tavella for their work on this event and our

congratulations to them for their well-deserved honor at the Forget-Me-Not Ball. We also salute one of our founding members, Bea Wellens on her "Lifetime Achievement" award. Our "Fashion Fantasy" evening was a huge success and we are grateful to our honoree, Christine Bartol and to everyone who contributed to the success of this event. We encourage you to participate in many of our upcoming holiday events including the Festival of Trees and "Knight to Remember." Come as a guest or volunteer your time and talent where needed at these important fundraisers. I thank you all for what you do to help **ucpn** and I wish you a happy and healthy holiday season.



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Long Island Festival of Trees

November 23, 24 and 25, 2007

See Inside for More Information

businesses and organizations that we can continue to effectively carry out our mission of assisting people with disabilities. As the holidays draw near, it is a prudent use of time to sit and reflect on all the gifts in our lives, the most important ones being the gifts of health and family and look for ways that we can show our gratitude for these things by sharing ourselves with other people in need and the vital organizations that help them. I hope you will consider helping **ucpn** by attending some of our events or volunteering. I wish you and yours a wonderful Winter season and all best wishes for the new year to come.



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We want you to have something to count on when you retire

Planning for a financially secure retirement is easier said than done. Conventional retirement plans limit the amount you can contribute each year, and the wider choice of plans available under current law can be extremely confusing. Many taxpayers - especially two-income couples - aren't even eligible for the new plans.

Fortunately, friends of UCP Nassau can supplement their regular retirement plans with I.R.S.-approved charitable gift annuities that can pay up to 11.3% for life, depending on age.

Age:	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90
Rate:	5.3%	5.5%	5.7%	6.0%	6.5%	7.1%	8.0%	9.5%	11.3%

For details, call Charles Evdos at (516) 378-2000, ext. 648