

Join Us in Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Long Island Festival of Trees

Welcome autumn! Most of you are just beginning to think about turkeys, pilgrims, parades and football season, but we have been thinking Christmas – and have been throughout the spring and summer! Our 20th annual Festival of Trees is around the corner and this year promises to be memorable; we are also celebrating 60 years of the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County (**ucpn**) assisting individuals with disabilities.

The official kick-off to the holiday season, **ucpn**'s Long Island Festival of Trees, has become a holiday tradition for Long Islanders every Thanksgiving weekend. Treat your family to a spectacular event and begin your holiday shopping – all while giving a present that cannot be wrapped – the gift of your caring and support to the 2,000 children and adults that benefit from the programs and ser-



Festival of Trees brings out the smiles in everyone!

guests will be transported into a winter wonderland, complete with elaborately decorated Christmas trees and walkways adorned with festive garlands. Inside the ballroom, nestled amongst the many designer-decorated Christmas trees & gingerbread houses, you will find Santa and his magical Toy Shoppe. Enjoy a visit with Santa, and experience some magical moments. Then simply delight in the warmth and excitement that is Festival. Enjoy a selection of children's activities, continuous live entertainment on our stage, plenty of holiday shopping, and our famous Department 56 marketplace & gingerbread village.

If you have not yet attended, please be sure to make the 2008 Festival of Trees a part of your family's new holiday tradition. The Festival runs November 28th, 29th & 30th, hours are 11am – 6pm on Friday and Saturday, and 11am – 5pm on Sunday.

vices offered at the **ucpn**.

Upon entering the newly redecorated Long Island Marriott Hotel and Conference Center,

'08 Paralympics in Beijing, the White House and Wounded Warrior Camp:

Mary C. Hodge Represents the Best of the USA and **ucpn**

The past couple of months have truly been a whirlwind for Mary C. Hodge, the Manager of the **ucpn** Community-Based Day Habilitation Program and Head Coach of the Nassau Thunderbolts Sports Team. Mary was selected to be the Head Coach/Team Leader for Team USA in Powerlifting for the 2008 Paralympics in Beijing. Mary left New York for China at the end of August. When asked to sum up the experience, Mary comments with great enthusiasm, "There is just no experience like representing your country and wearing the red, white and blue. There are no words to describe the feeling of running through the tunnel into the stadium in Beijing and hearing the roar of over 400,000 cheering fans. It is just tremendous as you join with the best of the best for the competition."

Mary has participated in the three previous Paralympics, something that did not go unnoticed by her 2008 team members, Mary Stack and Andy Wise. Both of these athletes noticed that Mary seemed very calm and collected, and Mary agreed, saying that with her previous experience and a

prior trip to Beijing, she knew what was expected and could fully concentrate on what the team needed to do to win. And winning is what it is all about at this level – athletes are here to represent the USA and have the hope of bringing home gold, silver or bronze.

For Andy Wise, a 25 year old from Needham, MA in the 67.50kg weight class, this was his first Paralympics experience and while he was feeling the excitement, he also felt confident that he could focus. As his coach, Mary Hodge was proud of him, "Even though Andy had some severe tendonitis he kept his composure during the competition

and did not allow himself to feel any intimidation." In the end, Andy did not medal but will likely be in the running for the 2012 games. Andy was humbled by the experience, "it's overwhelming to see the best Paralympic athletes in the world and to know I am among them is unfathomable."

Mary Stack, 34 from Ann Arbor, MI completed in the 75 kg weight class. Stack holds multiple records in her weight class for the bench press. In December 2007, she broke the American IPC Powerlifting record by 5.5kg with a lift of 110kg. In Beijing, Stack faltered

(continued on page 2)



Mary Hodge at the Beijing Paralympics



Mary Hodge helping soldier Mike Kuhn at the Wounded Warrior summit in Tampa.



Mary Stack, Mary Hodge and Andy Wise at the White House on October 7, 2008

Mary C. Hodge

(continued from page 1)

in her first attempt at 110kg. She went on to miss her second attempt and with her third and final attempt she pushed through and locked out. However, the judges did not accept the lift and she was disqualified. "She trained hard and did her best," said Coach Hodge. "I've never seen someone miss the first and second attempts and drive home the third like she did. I am proud of her."

The group was honored to be invited to a ceremony at the White House in October at which they gathered with other coaches and athletes from the Beijing Olympics and Paralympics and met with President Bush. The day after the White House visit, Mary Hodge was on a plane to Tampa, Florida to the Wounded Warriors Summit taking place there. As an elite coach, Mary was invited to participate in this vital gathering to provide a program in strength and conditioning for injured soldiers.

On October 27th, Mary Hodge and the Nassau Thunderbolts Sports Team celebrated their 20th anniversary at a ceremony held in the auditorium at **ucpn**. More on this celebration in the next issue of Center Square.



left to right: Head Coach Mary C. Hodge and Team USA athletes, Anderson Wise and Mary Stack

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 11-08

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

Teddy Bear Tea Party

November 15, 11 am – Long Island Marriott Hotel & Conference Center

20th Annual Long Island Festival of Trees

November 28, 29 & 30 - Long Island Marriott Hotel & Conference Center
Friday & Saturday 11am–6pm, Sunday 11am–5pm

Breakfast with Santa

December 7, 9:30 am – Long Island Marriott Hotel & Conference Center

A Knight to Remember

December 7, 4:30 pm – Long Island Marriott Hotel & Conference Center

Sugar Plum Ball

December 14, 2 sessions 12 pm & 5 pm – Long Island Marriott Hotel & Conference Center

Trivia Challenge Finals

February 2009 at **ucpn**

5th Annual Polar Bear Swim

March 1, 2009 – Theodore Roosevelt Park

Congratulations

to the **ucpn** Forget-Me-Not Ball 2008 Honorees

Mike Johnston

Harold Jay Greenberg Torch of Leadership Award



Marc Abbott

Dr. Jack and Kelly McElwain Humanitarian Award



Guy Allen

Dr. Jack and Kelly McElwain Humanitarian Award



Mark Reiss

Dr. Jack and Kelly McElwain Humanitarian Award



ucpn CENTER SQUARE

Published by the
United Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County, Inc.

380 Washington Avenue, Roosevelt, New York 11575
(516) 378-2000 fax (516) 223-3384

e-mail: info@ucpn.org • web site: www.ucpn.org



The **ucpn** meets all the BBB's standards for Charitable Accountability

Bob Masterson
President, Board of Directors

Robert McGuire
Executive Director

Annamaria Impagliazzo
President, Council of Auxiliaries

Charles Evdos
Development Director

Patricia Quinn
Editor

Lois Boyle
Staff Writer

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 "Brush 'Em" Up Project Visits CLC



The entire student body was delighted by the performance.



Dr. Chester Palmieri and his Office Manager Joan Cook proudly display their thank you gift from the ucpn, framed art by a student at CLC.



Amy Goldin, the creator of this program is interviewed by LI News Tonight.



The "Brush 'Em Up" Dental Health Ensemble with Jennifer Green and Kurt Murgo from the Children's Learning Center at ucpn.

The Children's Learning Center (CLC) was pleased to be the site of the debut of the "Brush 'Em Up" dental health show. The entire student body of 250 was delighted with this creative and informative song and dance performance. Amy Goldin created this public service project around her song "Brush 'Em Up," as a way to encourage dental wellness in young children. In collaboration with Joan MacNaughton and Sam Carrell, the volunteer dancers from Leggz, Ltd. Dance spent hours to perfect the music, cheers, tapping, hip-hop and fun generated by the original song.

Beloved Long Island dentist Frederic Kunken offered creative and professional input. Well-known orthodontist Dr. Chester Palmieri, bolstered the project with enthusiasm and financial support. Dr. Palmieri provided dental health goodie bags for every CLC student. Joan Cook, his Office Manager, volunteered to package the dental products in bags with ribbons to make them special for the students!

Amy Goldin's background in teaching and composing resulted in the creation of this developmentally appropriate presentation that was enjoyable and informative for everyone in the audience.

The list of supporters and sponsors of this project continues to grow, and includes educators, professional arts organizations and dental health professionals. Amy has offered to bring the program back to CLC during Dental Health Month in February 2009. Everyone at CLC and ucpn is grateful to Amy and everyone who supports this wonderful program.

"Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week"

Governor David Patterson, in response to a congressional resolution, proclaimed the week of September 8, 2008 as "Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Recognition Week." This formal recognition provided ucpn with a wonderful opportunity to honor those individuals who enhance the lives of the individuals we provide services for. We were encouraged by Diana Jones Ritter, Commissioner of OMRDD, to show our appreciation in some small way. Well, at ucpn we celebrated all week long!

Luncheons were held all week at the center, UCP Bayville and the community residential program. For those residential staff who could not attend one of the luncheons, meals were delivered to their work site during their shift. While enjoying their meals, the staff received personalized thank you cards, created by a program participant in the Life Options program, which included a "Thank you to our Direct Support Professional" pen and a lottery ticket. Although we were hoping for an instant millionaire, the biggest winner in the residential program is \$17.00 richer. Decorations at the luncheon sites displayed quotes of appreciation on the walls from the staff and thank you centerpieces made by the consumers for our direct support staff. Eight direct support professionals were honored as Employee of the Quarter: Jennifer Hibbert (Site-based Day Hab), Vernon Black (Sensory Site-Based Day Hab), Adam Tobias (Adult Day Treatment), Leslie

Martinez (Community-Based Day Hab), Brian Vasselmann (Life Options), Rose Pierre-Louis (Bayville), Sheronia Howell (Residential) and Will Lowry (Leisure Services). Each Employee of the Quarter received a \$100 appreciation check and their nomination signed and framed.

Bob McQuire and Karen Geller-Hittleman thanked all the Direct Support Professionals who provide services to our individuals at the Center and in our residential programs. "We applaud your energy, enthusiasm, passion, dedication, commitment, work ethic and caring hearts. You

truly meet the spirit of our mission as you continue to provide the highest quality services to the children and adults at ucpn," commented Karen Geller-Hittleman.



ucpn Employee of the Quarter winner Brian Vasselmann with some of his co-workers



Sharon Rothstein (center) Director of Life Options, congratulates her staff members Jennifer Hibbert and Adam Tobias upon their selection as ucpn Employees of the Quarter.



Vernon Black, ucpn Employee of the Quarter is congratulated by Chantal Labissiere and Marie Cecil upon his honor.

5th Annual Toast of the Town – A Night to Really Enjoy!

The **ucpn's** 5th Annual "Toast of the Town" gourmet food and wine tasting extravaganza was held on September 24th at the Chateau Briand in Carle Place. Almost 400 guests enjoyed culinary delights and beverages from 30 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 American Culinary Federation – Long Island Chapter joined **ucpn** again and served as distinguished. Our wine judges judges, Carolyn Kapuvari and

Arne Johnson 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, James C. Herrmann & Associates, LTD, Louis Koch Insurance Agencies, Mutual of America, Citibank, Testa Wines of the World, Camera Land Inc. and Administrators for the Professions 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.



Karen Kiefel and Lucille Messina of the **ucpn** Council of Auxiliaries and Ernie Bartol, **ucpn** Presiding Trustee and **ucpn** Executive Director, Bob McGuire



Event sponsor, Mutual of America gathers at their table



Ray Murphy, Toast of Town committee member and Bob McGuire



Jennifer Longo and Elizabeth from **ucpn's** Development Dept. join Al and Carmela Lage, **ucpn** Board members



Tony Galano and Gregg Raffa from the Toast of Town Committee



Bill Levine from WL Concepts with Charles Evdos of **ucpn** and Marion Leilson and Mike Mahig (from WL)



ucpn President, Bob Masterson, **ucpn** Asst Exec Director, Karen Geller-Hittleman and Margie and Jack Meisner, **ucpn** CFO



ucpn Board members Natalie Alloy and Ellen Henderson with Hilda Fernandez-Anderson from **ucpn**



Elizabeth Kelly, Larry Pierce, Michelle McCormick, Elliot Passo and Fran Pierce



Official Judges from the American Culinary Federation, LI Chapter. (l. to r.), Gerard Molloy, Grant Ripp, Mario Coiro and Lawrence Weiss



Mike Majikis from the NC Office of the Physically Challenged with Joe Koch, **ucpn** Board member, Committee Member and Event Sponsor



Toast of the Town's Lynbrook group. Standing Left to Right, Markus Heiniger, Noreen Canty, Vincent Sarnelli. Seated Left to Right, Linda Heiniger from **ucpn** Finance Dept, Lori Pujol, Cindy Lark, Claudia Armendinger



Testa Wines of the World - Deborah Lane and son



Nico at the Gatsby Mansion in Islip



Seventh Street Cafe, Garden City



Fox Hollow, Woodbury



Cakes from Sweet Karma, East Meadow



Toast of Town Committee member and Wine Judge, Carolyn Kapuvari. Arne Johnson (not pictured) was also a Wine Judge.

2008 Toast of the Town Awards

Appetizer:

1st Place – Page One
2nd Place – Chateau Briand
3rd Place – Ciao Baby

Entrée:

1st Place – Burton & Doyle
2nd Place – Chateau Briand
3rd Place – Collins & Main

Dessert:

1st Place – Taste of Home Bakery
2nd Place – Sweet Karma

Best of Show: Burton & Doyle

Best Overall Table: Page One

People's Choice: Sagamore Steakhouse

Best White/Rose:

Gold – Yorkville Highland Rose of Syrah (California) – Vindagra Imports

Silver – Aldegheri Pinot Grigio (Italy) – Testa Wines of the World

Bronze – Cister Da Ribeira (Portugal) – Supreme Wines

Best Red:

Gold – Pretty Sally Shiraz (Australia) – Pretty Sally

Silver – Teatown Cellars Right Bank (Napa) – Teatown Cellars

Bronze – Nando Chianti Classico Riserva – Nando

Participants

Chateau Briand
California Pizza Kitchen
Seventh Street Café
Nico @ The Gatsby Mansion
City Café Supper Club
Burton & Doyle
Tesoro Ristorante
Fox Hollow
Collins & Main
Ciao Baby
Art Flower & Gift
Sweet Karma Desserts
Fedway Imports
Testa Wines of the World
Stew Leonards

Palm Bay
Teatown Cellars Ltd.
Supreme Wines
Southern Wine & Spirits
Sagamore Steakhouse
Vindagra USA Imports
Page One Restaurant
Manhattan Beer Distributors
57 Main Street Imports
Pretty Sally Wines
Sidney Frank Imports
Banfi Wine
Cakes By Mona
A Taste of Home Bakery



Winning team from Chateau Briand



People's Choice -- Sagamore Steakhouse, Syosset



First place winner, Burton & Doyle from Great Neck with ucpn's Mary Brosky and Kathy Wilson



Silver Medal winner, Testa Wines of the World with Mary Brosky (left) from ucpn



Sweet Karma from East Meadow with award presented by Kathy Wilson, Event Co-Chair



Pat Quinn, ucpn Community Outreach and Morris Sendor, Publisher, great restaurants of Long Island



Gold medal winner Vindagra Imports with Mary Brosky

“Broadway in Brookville”

The 5th Annual Nassau Pops Symphony Orchestra Concert To Benefit ucpn Is Huge Hit

On October 5, the beautiful Tilles Center for the Performing Arts in Brookville was once again the venue for the annual concert by the Nassau Pops Symphony Orchestra to benefit the **ucpn**. Under the direction of Maestro Lou Panacciulli, the audience was treated to a delightful selection of songs and music from popular Broadway shows including *Camelot*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The King and I*, *West Side Story* and *South Pacific*.

The **ucpn**'s own singing sensation, Creation, under the direction of Maura Wachsberger from the **ucpn** Life Options program performed with the orchestra. Chris Wawzronek touched the hearts of all with “Can You Feel the Love Tonight” from Disney’s *Lion King*, David Tindale brought a smile to the audience as they tapped their toes to “On Broadway.” Melissan Herrera, Riva Zinno

and Christopher Kopkowski joined in for the rousing, “High Hopes” with the Pops’ own Lou Panacciulli as the lead singer for this audience favorite.

Talented vocalists Ann and Jack Cassin, Emily Nadler Klein and William Margiotta held the audience spellbound as they sang their renditions of favorite Broadway classics. The Liberty Bells, a group of three young ladies from the USO program added a patriotic element to the event with their wonderful singing and dancing routine.

The major concert sponsor was American Defense Systems, Inc., a government contract corporation located in Hicksville. ADSI manufactures security glass and other defense equipment that helps keep our service men and women’s safe. Bob McGuire, **ucpn** Executive Director presented Tony Piscatelli, President of ADSI, with a framed piece of artwork created by a student from the Children’s Learning Center at **ucpn** in thanks and appreciation for his support and generosity. Members of Creation presented Lou Panacciulli with a special framed piece in thanks

and appreciation for all that he and the whole Nassau Pops organization has done on behalf of **ucpn**.



Creation on stage at the Tilles Center



The entire cast on stage for the finale, God Bless America.



Steven Jurgens, the master of ceremonies for the concert, joins Maura Wachsberger and Creation



Friends of Creation from the Levittown ucpn residence enjoyed the concert



Featured performers Jack and Anne Cassin, Emily Nadler Klein and William Margiotta



Maestro Lou Panacciulli with Tony Piscatelli, President of ADSI, the concert's main sponsor and ucpn Executive Director, Bob McGuire



Charles Evdos, ucpn Development Director joins Lou Panacciulli and his son Mike and Susan Levin, from the Nassau Pops backstage at intermission



ucpn Asst. Executive Director joins ucpn Board member, Lenny Ferraro, ucpn Council of Auxiliaries, Lois Boyle and Lou Panacciulli



Program Director, Jon Grodenski backstage with David Tindale and Melissa Herrera

ucpn College Program: Providing Foundations for Success

By Patrick Berlinquette

Kevin Bailey, a teacher's aide in The Children's Learning Center, received a certificate in June 2008, acknowledging his completion of *Foundations for College Success*, the cornerstone of the Direct Service Professional Credit Program and the first step in his college career.

Since 1999, ucpn has given direct care workers exceptional options in beginning or continuing higher education with the opportunity to take up to two classes a semester at no cost.

Kevin calls his resolve to take advantage of the program "the best decision of my life." Kevin was attracted to the program because it was very accessible; he calls it a "rare opportunity" for himself and his fellow graduates, some of whom,

like many young men and women, could not afford the long-term burden of typical college fees. Kevin had watched his sister struggle to pay for her education, and she encouraged him to take advantage of the program.



Kevin Bailey with some CLC students in his care.

Nine years ago, Sara Griffith, Training Coordinator of Quality Assurance, had a vision for the direct care workers at ucpn. "I wanted to help our direct care workers not only advance their careers," she said "but to realize their dreams. We needed a program that would allow our direct care workers to have more options."

Sara approached the John F. Kennedy Jr. Institute for Workers Education in the Fall of 1999 to seek funding in order to support her vision. The meeting was a success: ucpn became the first agency on Long Island to implement a 12 credit college program for direct care workers. The program was called the JFK Jr. Direct Care Generalist Certificate Program (DCGCP).

In the Fall of 2002, negotiations were made with Nassau Community College and the Alliance of Long Island Agencies (ALIA) to expand the 12-credit program to include an option for a 30 credit Certificate and a 66 credit Associate's Degree. Thus, the DCGCP evolved into the Direct Service Professional Credit Program.

Kevin emphasizes that he is just an average guy, though as he walks through ucpn, it's clear that Kevin has a gift; he inspires people. Each child lights up and smiles as he passes. Kevin stops to greet every child individually and knows all of them by name.

Kevin works in a sensory classroom for severely disabled children ages six to ten. He teaches the children to respond to stimuli – helping to promote the function of the five senses with the use of interactive visual and aural learning tools.

Along with his patient nature, Kevin is also a very driven young man. During his studies for his certificate, Kevin commuted to Nassau Community College while working two jobs. Realizing that the burden of his schedule caused him difficulty, Kevin quit his second day job in order to keep up his grades.

On June 20th, 2008, Kevin successfully completed his foundation class and received a certificate for his accomplishments. He took part in the Moving-Up and Graduation Ceremony with other students in the program. At the ceremony, Kevin had the chance to meet Diana Jones Ritter, Commissioner of the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disorders, along with the families and friends of his classmates.

Kevin was so motivated by his success in the program that he has decided to continue his college education. He plans to pursue a degree specializing in teaching children with disabilities. "When that *one thing* in life comes by," Kevin says, "do not let it pass you by. This program was a blessing."

"To date," Sara said "over 130 direct care workers have par-



Front from left: Randi Greenberg, Rosrin Busayawatanasood, Sara Griffith, Frances Brabham, Stacy Khan, Kevin Bailey. Back from left: Robert McGuire, Pauline Doherty, Felize Frazier, Larry Davies, Carlos Cadet. Graduates not pictured: Catia Abarca, Vinay Ratwaru, Qualite Lewis, Jhisaiyah Myers, Tamara Bryant, Bernadette Martin-Clark, Greg Richardson, Tabita Souffrant, Alice Descorbeth, Cuda Jones

ticipated in the program. We have seen that employees that participate encounter many opportunities for career advancement down the line. When the program first began in 1999, my goal was to expand the initial 12-credit offering to an Associate's Degree program. Six years ago that goal was realized. In the future, I'd love to see this program expand further to encompass a Bachelor's Degree and beyond."

For further information on The Direct Service Professional Credit Program and to receive a registration form, please contact Sara Griffith at 516-378-2000, ext. 406.

Holiday Fun For Everyone
& Help Raise Funds For ucpn

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

Festival of Trees

Nov. 28th, 29th, 30th

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)

Teddy Bear Tea Party

Nov. 15th, 11AM-12:30PM

For Children Ages 2-6
• Brunch, Parade, DJ,
Sing-A-Long, Magic & Gift

Tickets: \$25 Per Person
Advance Reservations Required

Knight To Remember

Dec. 7th, 4:30-7:30PM

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

Tickets: \$90 Per Couple (\$55/Adult & \$35/Child)
Advance Reservations Required

Breakfast with Santa

Dec. 7th, 9:30-11AM

Face Painting,
Raffles, Treats,
Goodie Bag & Dancing

Tickets: \$25 Per Person
Advance Reservations Required

Sugar Plum Ball

Dec. 14th, 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

Forensics, Yoga, Public Speaking:

Life Options is Expanding Horizons at ucpn

By Maria Maringelli

Over the past few months there has been much excitement in the Life Options program. As we come to the end of our 3rd year, we continue to grow and expand. The roster of participants in Life Options has grown to 131 and we still have people on our waiting list! The participants continue to learn and grow in the program. Several of them hold Teacher Aide positions in Life Options. In these positions the participants write lesson plans and assist with teaching classes such as horticulture, computers, creative writing and poetry.

In addition to the increase in participants, we have added new classes to our program. Recently, we added a class in Forensic Science/Psychology. Due to the nature of the information that would be presented the staff were initially hesitant about offering this class. The participants advocated for themselves and are now learning about how investigators process a crime scene to learn how crimes were committed, how they track down criminals and how the criminal mind works.

Two of our newest classes are Yoga and Yearbook. Many of our participants enjoy the Yoga class which has been adapted to allow

everyone to participate. The Yoga class teaches relaxation and body awareness. The class is so popular that our staff often join in on their breaks. The yearbook class has begun to gather information and pictures to record all of the happenings in the program. We look forward to sharing the first edition with everyone.

Several Life Options members have been participating in the Public Speaking Elective and the Speaker's Bureau which has helped them feel more comfortable with public speaking. The teachers and participants joined forces to speak about Disability Awareness at the Nassau County Museum of Art in Roslyn Heights.

Our computer room has been outfitted with several Nintendo Wii video game systems. These systems have been used to enhance our PT program. The Clinical Services Department and Computer Room teacher teamed up to develop programs that will incorporate fine motor skills and exercise. The controllers have been adapted to be used with therapeutic equipment. These adaptations allow participants with limited movement to participate in the games using the movement they have. The systems are interactive and allow people to see their movements turn into a strike in bowling or a hole-in-one in golf.



Sylvia thoroughly enjoys her autumn leaves project during a Horticulture session in Life Options

Recently, the Music Group held a fundraising concert for the Carmen Road School. The school had a fire in June and is in the process of rebuilding. Many of our participants graduated from the Carmen Road School and felt they wanted to do something to help their alma mater. The music group did a wonderful job of getting the entire audience into the music. Everyone in attendance came together for the cause.

The participants and staff of the Life Options program encourage visitors to come and see the artwork displayed throughout the program and observe our classes in action.

ucpn Speakers Bureau Brings "Kids on the Block" Puppet Presentation to Local First Grade

The "Kids on the Block" puppet presentation is offered as a community service through the ucpn Speaker's Bureau. The first grade class at Forest Brook Elementary School in Hauppauge enjoyed the presentation and learned a lot about being kind and caring towards people with disabilities. To arrange for a presentation, call 516-378-2000 ext 352.



Back Row (Left to Right) Dr. Christopher J. Michael, Principal – Forest Brook Elementary School; Iris Alessi, Council of Auxiliaries Executive Board – President of Plainedge Auxiliary Margaret Govits, 1st Grade Teacher, Forest Brook; Samantha Alexander, Teacher, Life Options, ucpn; Elizabeth Katz, Coordinator of Volunteers, ucpn; Vera Schwartz, puppeteer, ucpn volunteer; Tessa Tavernier, Community Coach, Life Options, ucpn
Front Row: Nancy Pedersen – puppeteer – Participant in Life Options, ucpn; With students from Ms. Govits' First Grade Class

Our Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon was held on October 2nd at the delicious City Café. Plaques were distributed to the following individuals for specific years of volunteer service:

Mary Mellinger & Marie Yorio – 40 years; Linda Longo & Harriett Rand – 35 years; Ida Risbrook – 30 years; Laura Hecht, John Ryan & Vera Schwartz – 20 years; Bernice Kupfer – 15 years. Kudos to the above individuals and to all current and new volunteers at ucpn. The quality of programs and services at our agency is raised to a higher bar because of your efforts.

The Development Department is proud to report that we have 5 volunteers, all of whom do an outstanding job. They are: Nora Heavey, Norma Lerner, Norma Schaeffer, Ed Strachar and Karen Tusa. Thank you so much for giving your time and dedication to our department. You are all appreciated!

Speaking of... 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. We welcome and truly appreciate all of your help, and hope that you will contact our department if you would like to be part of the volunteer festivities. All your enthusiasm reflects back on the exciting and heartwarming fundraisers you help us run. Have a wonderful holiday season!



The 2008 ucpn Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at the City Café.

Volunteer's Corner

By Elizabeth Katz

Coordinator of Volunteers

Michael Badalucco from "The Practice" Shares a Day With Teen CLC Students

The last day of school was made extra exciting for the teen academics class when special visitor, Michael Badalucco, star of stage and screen, joined them in the classroom and spent time getting to know one another and shared pizza and a movie! Michael is a family friend of CLC student Josh London and that is how the visit came about. In "Pizza My Heart," an ABC Family Channel movie that the group viewed, Michael plays a Dad and pizza parlor owner in Verona, New Jersey. The students had a wonderful time, enjoying hot pizza while they viewed this funny and heart-warming movie with its star right there with them! All the students and staff members commented on how much they enjoyed their visit with Michael; even though he is someone famous, he was like a friend they all felt comfortable with and was a great listener as well as a great storyteller.

The students prepared questions and interviewed their special guest and thought



CLC student Josh London beams as he joins friend Michael Badalucco and CLC Assistant Principals Sally Moradoff and Margaret Carlock and CLC Principal, Dee Berger

Center Square readers would enjoy excerpts from the session:

CLC students: How did you feel when you filmed your first movie?

MB: I was very nervous because the movie was "Raging Bull" and I was working with Robert DeNiro.

CLC Students: What was it like working with Will Farrell and Nicole Kidman in Bewitched?

MB: Both of them are very nice. One of the most memorable scenes in this movie was the dog scene which I thought was really funny.

CLC Students: How long have you been acting in movies?

MB: For 32 years!

CLC Students: When did you get married?

MB: Eleven years to Brenda. We met on a blind date, she is from Ohio and I am from Brooklyn.

CLC Students: What are you working on now?

MB: I just finished an episode of the television show "Bones" and I am developing a movie.

CLC Students: Did the writers' strike effect you?

MB: Yes, when the writers go on strike, it affects everyone from the actors to the producers to the makeup artists.

CLC Students: Are gas prices affecting you?

MB: Yes, I have to travel to New Jersey and I hope I can make it on what is left in my tank so I can fill up at a place I go there where gas is cheaper!

CLC Students: How did you feel when you received your first Emmy award?



At the Annual Wheatley Carnival for the Children's Learning Center Students from the Wheatley School along with Principal Rick Simon (2nd from r) join with Bob McGuire and CLC Principal, Dee Berger and CLC students and faculty.



At the Annual Homecoming Celebration Fall Festival at the Children's Learning Center, students from the Marching Band and the Varsity Football team at Roosevelt High School join Islander's mascot, Sparky and CLC students and faculty.

MB: First of all, I am pleased to hear you say "received" rather than "won" because acting is not a contest, you do the best you can. I was pretty nervous, I had prepared a speech but when I went up to receive the award, it was like I didn't.

CLC Students: Who is your favorite actor or actress?

MB: Tom Hanks is my favorite actor. Prior to acting, I was a "prop man." I worked on the movie "Big" and Mr. Hanks was very nice. As a result, I was very excited to work with him as an actor in the movies "Sleepless in Seattle" and "You've Got Mail."

Dan Lurie brings Muscle Beach to Long Island on Behalf of ucpn

Following the success of his New York State Checker Tournament, Dan Lurie along with 1975 Mr. Universe Steve Michalik, organized the first annual Mr. & Ms. Jones Beach Bodybuilding Competition, to benefit the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County, Inc. (ucpn).

The competition, a first of its kind at Jones Beach, brought out a large crowd of spectators on a beautiful August day. A surprise visit from radio personality Joe Franklin was an added bonus. The contestants, a mix of both seasoned and amateur bodybuilders, posed on the stage of a show mobile graciously provided by the Town of Oyster Bay. Other categories considered by the panel of distinguished judges, headed by Mr. Michalik, included ones for Bikini and Best Beach Body.

The day culminated with the crowning of Mr. & Ms. Jones Beach 2008, Steven Pecora of Bohemia and Glenda Bozett of East Northport. Chalk up another winning event for Mr. Lurie and ucpn.



Dan Lurie (left) joins with Mr. and Ms. Jones Beach

SAVE THE DATE!

5th Annual

POLAR BEAR:
BREAK THE ICE
EVENT

March 1st
2009

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



Farm Friends Visit **ucpn**

The Adult Services Day Program was the recipient of a generous donation by the agency's *California Closets Curiosity Thrift Shop* that enabled the adult consumers to enjoy an interactive program hosted by a mobile petting zoo, Tony the Pony and the Barnyard Buddies. The program was facilitat-



Consumers from **ucpn**'s ADT program enjoyed petting the bunnies and other visiting animals.

ed by Ilena Koffsky, Activities Specialist, and was held in the park area at **ucpn** in August.

This hands-on program provided an interesting educational overview for all. Participants enjoyed the various levels of interaction with small animals, which included feeding baby goats and rabbits. After the

Mary Jean Dyczko Represents **ucpn** at Prestigious Conferences in the Assistive Technology Arena

Mary Jean Dyczko recently represented the **ucpn** at two major conferences for professionals in the Assistive Technology arena. "Accessing Assistive Technology: Beyond Simply Using Your Hands" was presented April 12th to the New York State Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NYSSLHA) in Saratoga Springs, New York. Mary Jean submitted her presentation proposal & abstract for consideration by the review board of NYSSLHA and was honored to have her proposal selected for presentation to the conference of Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists.



Mary Jean Dyczko (left) works with a consumer in the Natalie Paymer Innovative Tech center at **ucpn**.

two-hour program, the smiles on the faces of our consumers remained broad. The enthusiasm of our program staff continued throughout the day with discussions and casual conversation about the morning's event.

The Curiosity Thrift Shop, managed by several of our dedicated volunteers, raises funds through the sale of various treasures and then generously and thoughtfully provides funding to agency programs.

The second presentation, "Individuals with ALS: Exploring AAC Assessment and Intervention" was made to the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA) on June 28th. The conference was held in Virginia, right outside of Washington, D.C. This is a very large, international annual conference with attendees from throughout the world who work within the field of Assistive Technology, including Speech Language Pathologists, Assistive Technology Practitioners, Assistive Technology Suppliers, Rehab Engineers, Rehab Technicians, OTs, PTs, Program Managers and Administrators as well as consumers and caretakers. The RESNA conference committee selected Mary Jean's presentation proposal and abstract from more than a hundred proposals.

Checker Championship held to benefit **ucpn**

July 13th dawned bright and sunny for the New York State Checker Championship benefiting the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County, Inc. (**ucpn**). The event came to pass when Dan Lurie, of 1940's bodybuilding fame came to Charles Evdos, **ucpn**'s Director of Development with the idea of this fundraiser.

Mr. Lurie, whose third love, after his wife Thelma and bodybuilding, is checkers (he himself having won the 1936 NYS Checker Championship), wanted to run this event for us at Jones Beach. Mr. Evdos, not one to turn down a good idea, assigned staff member Lois Boyle to help Mr. Lurie with the venture.

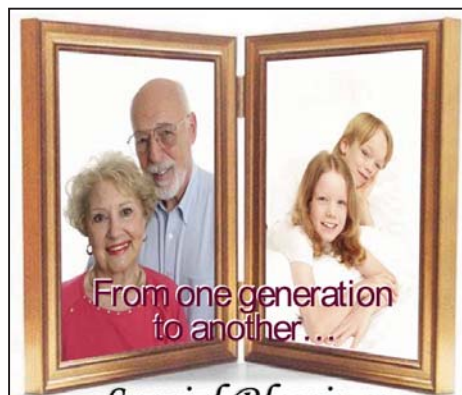
Dan solicited sponsorships from local businesses, placed ads, ordered T-shirts, and with his **ucpn** helpers, attended to the many details that go into running a fundraiser. Major sponsors Adam Rosner of Bagel Boss, and Frank and Robin Cristo of Mezzanote of Hewlett Ristorante Italiano enthusiastically lent support to their friend's enterprise.

Tim Byrnes of the Parks Department and the Jones Beach staff provided help with the logistics of the event. Mr. Evdos and his development crew gladly gave up their Sunday to set up tents and register players. The day was a huge success with the winners in all three age categories proudly posing with their trophies. Sal Cicero, Philip Schwartzberg, Mary Brosky and George Gerhauser came in first, second, third and fourth place respectively in the adult category, while Jared Leventhal, Danielle Shure, and Alex Perlin took the first, second and third places for the Teens. The Juniors (under 13) first place winner was Sohun Sheth, with Mike Heckman second and Carson Termotto coming in third.

Our thanks to Mr. Lurie for a great idea and a wonderful day! We just might have to repeat this one!



Checkers at the sea shore makes you feel like a king!



Special Blessings

- Share your blessings – and your values – with a gift to a loved one on a special occasion
- A generous gift check for a child/grandchild for 5 years
 - A substantial immediate income tax deduction (approx. 77%)
 - Instill humanitarian values in your loved ones
 - Improve quality of life for disabled individuals
- Call (516) 378-2000, ext. 648 for information

Planning a Wedding, Milestone Party or Special Event?

Rather than give a gift or party favor that ends up in the closet or, worse yet, re-gifted, the latest party trend is to replace the party favors with a gift to **ucpn** or to ask the guests in the invitation to donate to **ucpn** in lieu of bringing a present.

So far **ucpn** has been fortunate to share in the joy of birthdays, weddings and mitzvahs, such as the surprise birthday party for Roberta Fishbein, whose guests honored her by fulfilling **ucpn** needs from the **ucpn** Wish List.

This is a great way to avoid being burdened with unwanted gifts and at the same time supporting and



Bobbie and Norman Fishbein -- Bobbie asked for donations to **ucpn** instead of gifts in honor of her birthday.

helping **ucpn** reach its goals.

We will work with you or your party/event planner to design an appropriate gift acknowledgement card. The gift card can contain artwork from one of the CLC students, and can even match the color scheme of the event. Let us share in the celebration of your special event — just call the **ucpn** development department and we can brainstorm with you!

And even if you do end up with a few unwanted presents, please donate them to **ucpn** before they are stuffed away in the attic — so long as it isn't personalized, **ucpn** can offer it for sale in its thrift shop.

Special Blessings this Holiday Season

A Time to Give... A Time to Give the Gift of Giving

We teach our children best by example and through repetition. But what do we want them to learn? What do we hope for our children, their children and future generations — a kinder, gentler world? Then we need to teach our children the joy of giving, the importance of giving, and how to give responsibly.

Charity does begin at home — it begins with sharing with the next generations the values and responsibilities that define us as human beings — and **ucpn**'s Special Blessings™ program is structured to not only provide the donor with tax benefits, but each year for five years it gives a double gift to the recipient of a monetary sum for them to spend and the lesson and reminder of a charitable gift made in their name that will bring hope and enable services and programs at **ucpn**. This is also an easy way for you to ensure future gifts each year in case you are unable to do so later.

And how should you start your social investment program? Before investing your money you surely research the return on investment, performance and financial management. This is applicable to charities as well. Choosing **ucpn** as your charity to support is based on sound fiscal responsibility — it is wise social investing. Few charities have as high a percentage of funds utilization as does **ucpn**. Over 90% of every dollar contributed to **ucpn** is used to fund programs and services, with very little used for administrative overhead and fundraising expenses. The Better Business Bureau in New York (www.newyork.bbb.org) has given **ucpn** its BBB Charity Seal and **ucpn** meets every one of the BBB's standards for accountability. Given that the majority of charities in the US spend 40% or more on fundraising expenses, a gift to **ucpn** is an excellent choice.

To make a Special Blessings gift, please call (516-398-6410) or email us (EstatePlan@ucpn.org) and we will send you the appropriate paperwork. When we receive your instructions and payment, we will send a special **ucpn** gift card to your chosen recipient for the occasion you select, be it a holiday, a special day or achievement, or an annual remembrance or tribute. We will also send you a letter detailing your tax-deductible contribution.

A Special Blessing™ gift of \$500 or more can also be acknowledged with membership in **ucpn**'s Heritage Society.

Would you like to receive Center Square and other info from **ucpn** via email?

Send your email information to: info@ucpn.org

Please include your full name, regular address and phone number for cross-reference purposes.

ucpn Wish List



Building Campaign to Expand Classrooms	\$ 625,000
Leisure Services Program	\$ 225,000
Fiber Optic Evaluation Equipment	\$ 41,000
1 Wheelchair Accessible Van for Children	\$ 36,000
Pet Therapy	\$ 26,000
20 New Computers with Printers	\$ 20,000
Body Pressure Mapping System	\$ 12,000
Math Curriculum	\$ 9,000
OT Ice-Pack Machines, Fluid Therapy, Ultrasound	\$ 5,000
Augmentative Communication Device	\$ 5,000
Electric Combination Tilt Table	\$ 4,100
Tablet Computer with infra-red joystick	\$ 3,000
Assorted Trees & Shrubs	\$ 1,500
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
Self Feeding Device	\$ 900
Zoom Text and Screen Reader for Windows XP	\$ 700
Missing Link Block Set	\$ 700
Communication for Visually Impaired	\$ 600
One Augmentative Communication Device	\$ 500
4 Patio Sets (each)	\$ 500
Sponsor a Leisure Services Trip for 10 Individuals	\$ 500
Sponsor 1 Individual for One Year of Bowling	\$ 450
2 Snow Blowers (each)	\$ 400
Boccia Balls Set	\$ 375
Activity Supplies for Two Events for our Children and Adults	\$ 300
2 Lawn Mowers (each)	\$ 300
Purchase New Set of Books for our Classrooms	\$ 200
Craft Supplies	\$ 100
8 Food Processors (each)	\$ 100

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

HEALTHCARE PRODUCTS WITH YOU IN MIND



SAVE GAS, SKIP A TRIP, SHOP ONLINE!

You can save an average of 30% on the purchase of medical wellness products with Rehab Solutions! Rehab Solutions offers a product line of over 15,000 health-related products while continuing to sell and service durable medical equipment as it has done for the past ten years!

TO ORDER: Go to rehabolutionsonline.com

For questions or more info, email: rnuzzi@rehabolutions.com or Call 1-888-DMEFORU

Proceeds benefit the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County, Inc.



Director's Message



Robert McGuire
Executive Director

I'm writing this message a few days after Congress and the President have signed off on the bailout and Governor Patterson has ordered New York State's legislature to go back again and reduce expenses throughout the State. Clearly, we are living in troubled times and these difficulties will have rippling affects throughout our entire country. As anyone who has followed our agency's history will know, it is evident that we would be concerned about how these decisions will impact on our ability to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities. Long after the dark days of Willowbrook and before when families were left, most often, to their own individual capabilities, we have come to expect a kind and generous country that recognizes its responsibilities to all of its citizens. That world is threatened now. Opportunities to be educated, work, recreate, live independently of their family, have appropriate and knowledgeable medical services, and be all one can be, may be seriously limited or eliminated if we are not vigilant. This is the time to communicate with our representatives at every level of government reminding them of the benefits of their past decisions in which programs and services for individuals with disabilities were developed and grew to a mature service system. When you read the contents of Center Square, it is evident of the myriad experiences and successes enjoyed by our participants and the growth of opportunities. Please consider sending the Center Square to your representative(s) (you can get more copies from the Development office, if needed) at the local, state and federal level to ensure that they understand the value of their support.

Thank you all for the contributions you have made to our organiza-



United Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County, Inc.
380 Washington Avenue
Roosevelt, New York 11575

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #351
Roosevelt, NY 11575

Rehab Solutions –

Now on the Internet at www.rehabsolutionsonline.com

tion. Over the 60 years of our existence, tens of thousands of children and adults with disabilities and their families have a better life because of you. Let's make sure it continues.

Council President's Message



Annamaria Impagliazzo
Council of Auxiliaries
President

Our very successful Fashion Fantasy fundraiser took place on October 7th at the Crest Hollow Country Club. We had a biggest group of attendees in recent years and the evening was a fantastic success in terms of raising funds for **ucpn** and for renewing old friendships and establishing new ones! My sincere thanks to all who worked so hard to make this event so wonderful!

Our upcoming "Knight to Remember" event will take place on December 7th from 4:30 until 7:30 at the Marriott in Uniondale. This is a perfect opportunity for you Moms or Grandmas to spend a fun evening with the special young man in your life. The price for this event has actually been lowered – now that is something different! We want everyone to be able to come and experience the fun of this unique event so, for under \$100 you can enjoy this special time with your son or grandson. Hope you will call today to reserve a spot or a table with friends.

As we come into the holiday season and you take pause to reflect on the blessings in your life, I encourage everyone to reach out to friends and neighbors and invite them to join as Council members and to support **ucpn** as a way to give back and help others in need.

The auxiliaries are all working very hard on various fundraisers and other things and I suggest that you check the new **ucpn** website for the latest news on what is happening at the agency.

THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LONG ISLAND

FESTIVAL *Trees*

To Benefit the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County, Inc. **ucpn**

SPONSORED BY:
LONG ISLAND **Marriott** APS
HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER LLC
LAW **SHAW** **EPIC**
FIRM

November 28, 29, and 30
L.I. Marriott Hotel Uniondale

Friday & Saturday 11-6
Sunday 11-5

\$6 Admission
Children Under 2 Are Free

Continuous Live Entertainment, Designer-Decorated Trees, Dept 56 Shoppe, Vendor Marketplace, Santa Area, Gingerbread Village. All proceeds benefit **ucpn**.

516-378-2000 X648 | www.ucpn.org

Design courtesy of New Media Design, Farmingdale State College; Marissa Puttagio, Valerie Seidel, Kelly Sullivan, Eric Friesse