

2013 AUXILIARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING DATES

January 14	9:30 am	Conference Room #2
March 11	9:30 am	Conference Room #3
May 13	9:30 am	Conference Room #4
June 10	9:30 am	Conference Room #2

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Spring Pulse DEADLINE: March 11
Summer Pulse DEADLINE: June 10

For more information about the Auxiliary please visit us at www.oaux.org

Overlook Auxiliary
 99 Beauvoir Avenue
 Summit, NJ 07901



PULSE

Volume 10

Winter 2012-2013

THE VALERIE CENTER CHATHAM TWIG #6

Since its inception, CH Twig #6, chaired by Melissa Sartorius and Kim Morander, has had the pleasure to work with the Overlook and Morristown Valerie Fund Centers. CH Twig #6's primary focus is to aid the Valerie Fund, a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide support for the comprehensive health care of children with cancer and blood disorders. The Twig is honored to be able to provide support to the staff, patients and families that turn to the Valerie Fund centers at these two local hospitals.

Unique among the Twigs, the volunteers of CH Twig #6 are fortunate to have a close working relationship with the social workers and child-life personnel within the Overlook and Morristown Valerie Centers. The volunteers work with the Center staff to help fulfill a variety of patient and family needs. Thanks to a successful trunk show in April and the annual "Rock Against Cancer" fundraiser in June of this past year, CH Twig #6 raised funds to provide on-going snacks, iPads, gift cards and even family trips for children that do not meet the requirements of the "Make-A-Wish" program.

The month of December is the busiest time for CH Twig #6's volunteers! One of the Twig's most important roles is to help decorate the Centers and provide gifts and volunteers for the annual Valerie Center holiday party.

To start the season, volunteers spent a fun evening decorating the Center to ring in the holiday season. During the first weekend of December, many of the Twig members contributed their time towards the Valerie Center annual holiday party. The holiday party is a fun filled afternoon of crafts and entertainment at the Governor Livingston Hotel in Morristown. Preceding the party, volunteers worked in conjunction with the Center staff to help sort and pack all the gifts to be given out at the party. This included gifts for more than 80 families! It was a busy day but somehow they managed to get all the wonderful donations packed and ready to go! The day of the party was amazing. The Twig's volunteers helped man the craft tables and took pictures of all the kids and their families with Santa. The volunteers were honored to be part of such a special event and spend time with the courageous Valerie Fund patients and families.

Looking to 2013, Melissa Sartorius and Kim Morander with the support from CH Twig #6 are ecstatic to be chairing the Overlook Auxiliary Kitchen Tour in October 2013. They are looking forward to a successful event that will provide funding for a variety of projects within the Valerie Center at Overlook Hospital. Planning has already started and CH Twig #6 is hoping to see everyone for the tour next October.



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENTS



Dear Auxiliary Members,

As we start a New Year we would like to take a moment to thank our members for all their efforts in bringing 2012 to such a successful conclusion. The Gift Shop & Bloom has had another banner year. We expect great things from them and they never fail to go beyond our expectations. The Holiday Staff and Volunteer Cookie reception was as always a success, beloved by all who stopped by to enjoy your home baked treats. The many Twig activities to raise money for our Wish List (Luminary Sales, Derby Day, Friends of Hospice, vendor sales, neighborhood gatherings just to name a few) are much appreciated.

In the coming year we will have a Kitchen Tour benefiting the Valerie Center, a Community Blood Drive and the establishment of a biweekly tea for patients and caregivers in the Oncology Center to come together in a more social setting with less stress. Our new website is up and running with information about what other Twigs are doing, forms you might need through out the year and a directory of current Auxiliary members. We urge you to make use of the site and to send news of what your Twig is doing and pictures if possible to be posted by Christine Cartisser our computer and web designer (cccartisser@yahoo.com).

As the days go by there will be additions to our Auxiliary outreach, none of which can be done without your support and ideas. Feel free to contact us with any new ideas or suggestions, to attend a Board Meeting or to plan or suggest an event. Also, remember to send information to the office as to your activities so they can be shared with all our members in the Pulse.

In the meantime we wish you the very best life has to offer in the coming year.

Elsa & **Peggy**

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peggyschreck@hotmail.com

2013 Dues - \$25

Thank you if you have already paid your **2013 Membership Dues.**

Membership Dues paid **after January 31** are considered late and are assessed a **\$20 Late Fee.**

The Auxiliary would like to thank the following members for the “extra” donation included in their dues:

- | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Terry Andrews | Bobbie Gilmore | Dodi Peron | Peggy Schreck |
| Nancy Burrows | Maureen Griffith | Leigh Rosoff | Mary Sheehan |
| Christine Cartisser | Mary Joe Herr | Elsa Russell | Kitty Simpson |
| Alice Dillon | Carol Kanner | Barbara Cox Sacks | Anne St.Clair |
| Tyler Farrand | Dorothy Moxley | | |

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

VOLUNTEER MUSICIANS

Bring healing to our patient visitors and staff with the soothing sounds of music! Pianists, vocalists, violinists, harpists and guitarists are all in great demand! Piano music in our atrium lobby creates a healing and welcoming environment! But, we hope to bring music to our patient care areas as well. Please volunteer to help us! Music creates a calm and healing environment!



MESSENGER ROOM - EXPANDED HOURS

The help of our messenger room volunteers is invaluable throughout the day. We would like to expand the opportunity for service in the evening as well. Please consider joining an evening shift on weekdays from 4:30-7:30pm. This is a peak time for patient discharges, and evening volunteer assistance with discharges will help expedite the availability of rooms for patients waiting in the ED.

BEDSIDE COMPANION PROGRAM

If you are caring and compassionate with a fondness for older adults, this may be the perfect volunteer experience for you! You can touch someone’s life just by being there to listen and provide brief companion visits! Training will be provided to prepare you to comfortably perform this volunteer role.

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer positions are available immediately in our Emergency Department at the Summit and Union campus. Please make a commitment to change the experience of Emergency Department patients through kindness and human contact. Personalized orientation and training will be provided. If you are a retired healthcare professional who is comfortable in a clinical setting, this experience may be perfect for you.

If you are interested in learning more about any of our volunteer opportunities, please contact Sue Thomas, Manager of the Patient Experience and Volunteer Services. 908-522-2841! Sue.thomas@atlantichhealth.org
Thank You!

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

“Some people give time, some money, some their skills and connections, some literally give their life’s blood...but everyone has something to give!”

Barbara Bush

A SPECIAL MESSAGE....

This has been an incredible year at Overlook Medical Center and our volunteers share in our success! We are blessed to have such a special cadre of dedicated volunteers and auxiliaries. Throughout Hurricane Sandy, the nor’easter and the recovery that followed, our volunteers put aside their own personal hardships to focus their energy on the well-being of our patients. Our volunteer team demonstrated incredible courage and caring and to help Overlook to stay strong throughout the hurricane and its aftermath. With PRIDE and appreciation we celebrate the caring generosity of spirit of our amazing Overlook volunteers!

One special volunteer has brought smiles to your hearts through the seasonally decorated windows on the 8th floor over the past six months. Many of you have told me how these displays have brightened your days and I shared with you that I have a secret helper. Although she would prefer to remain anonymous, I think it is only fair to give you the opportunity to directly share your comments and appreciation with your very talented volunteer colleague, Kathy Ensslin. Thank you Kathy for all you do to brighten our corridor and our spirits.



Overlook always welcomes new volunteers! Making a commitment to help others will surely change your life in the process! If you are interested in becoming an Overlook Medical Center volunteer, please call Gwen Dabney, Administrative Assistant, Volunteer Services to request an application! Gwendolyn.dabney@atlanticealth.org or 908-522-2099

“Even if it’s a little thing, do something for others - something for which you get no pay but the privilege of doing it.”

Albert Schweitzer

VOLUNTEER OPENINGS - IMMEDIATE AVAILABILITY

Bloom needs a Monday volunteer to receive and prep deliveries from florist!

The **Emergency Department** seeks assistance daily at Summit and Union campus!

The **Gift Shop** is in need of help with sales and data entry!

The **Information Desk** seeks friendly volunteers to welcome guests and offer information/direction. Good telephone and basic computer skills necessary!

Messenger Room Receptionist is needed to receive calls and make assignments.

Messenger Room Volunteers are needed daily to run errands throughout the medical center. Most urgent need: Monday afternoons...and weekday evenings!

The **Travelling Gift Cart** needs a cheerful volunteer to treat patients to a bedside visit and an opportunity to purchase magazines, toiletries and sundries.

AUXILIARY HAPPENINGS

SAVE THE DATES

JONES NY COAT SALE

Monday, February 4, 2013
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Bouras Auditorium

Hosted by
SH Twig #17

JONES NY COAT SALE

Thursday, November 14, 2013
8 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Bouras Auditorium

Hosted by
SH Twig #17

Lenore Ford, Peggy Schreck and Honoree Alan Lieber at the Diamond Ball in September.



What’s trending at **The Gift Shop & Bloom**?



January will bring many surprises to The **Gift Shop**! Why? That is the time when our talented buyers attend the trade shows and find trends and treasures for the New Year. We always look forward to opening boxes of new and fabulous merchandise! Visit The **Gift Shop** often, because new finds are arriving daily.

Valentines Day is so much more than the traditional red roses. Many women would prefer a creative design in an unusual color combination. Colorful tulips and Gerbera daisies are in abundance, and spring flowers are starting to make their appearance in the flower market. With curbside pickup, there is no delivery charge. Orders should be placed early to ensure product availability. Residential and corporate delivery are available, as well as complimentary delivery within Atlantic Health System and Summit Medical Group locations.

In 2012, The **Gift Shop & Bloom** donated \$100,000 to the Auxiliary and \$4,500 was donated directly to Palliative care, in the way of caregiver baskets. The

American Cancer Society’s Diamond Ball received \$1000 in the form of centerpieces, Alan Lieber was one of the honorees. Thank you to the dedicated volunteers who helped make these donations possible by giving of their time. Thank you, also, to our loyal customers!

Following Super Storm Sandy, The **Gift Shop & Bloom** held a raffle to benefit Overlook’s Employee Relief fund. The “House”, which was on display in Overlook’s lobby for many years was the object of the raffle and raised \$329. The “House” had been donated to The **Gift Shop & Bloom** by a long-time volunteer when she moved cross country. Originally purchased in Scotland, the “House” enchanted visitors and employees alike.

The **Gift Shop & Bloom**, distinctive gifts and flowers for all occasions.

908-522-2133 or 908-522-2117

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT
PATIENT SERVICES



TWIG HAPPENINGS

SU Twig 5

“Lights of Love”, an annual tree lighting event to remember loved ones and raise money for Atlantic Hospice was sponsored by the Friends of Atlantic Hospice. SU Twig #5. The “Tree of Lights” was displayed during the month of December for all to visit in the lobby of Atlantic Home Care and Hospice in Morristown.

Donors added lights to the tree in memory of a loved one by purchasing a symbolic light for a suggested donation of \$15 per light. A wooden ornament with their loved one's name was placed on the tree which remained lit during the month of December.

These holiday gifts will benefit Atlantic Hospice, one of the first hospices in the country to serve terminally ill patients and their families in our northern New Jersey communities.

This year's 9 foot tree was generously donated by Costco in East Hanover.

SU Twig 21

Dear Twig members,

The Auxiliary and SU Twig #21 would like to thank all our bakers and suppliers of holiday treats for your generosity. The Employee, Staff and Volunteer Holiday Reception was a terrific success. The Auditorium looked and sounded quite jolly thanks to the donation of a new Christmas tree and decorations by SU Twig #21. The staff expressed their appreciation for the respite and snacks that you all provided. The Medical Center looked especially festive thanks to SU Twig #21 Christmas and SH Twig #18 Hanukkah decorations.



Again, many thanks for your participation!

Elsa Russell & Peggy Schreck, Co-Presidents Overlook Auxiliary

FAREWELL TO OUR BUSY BEES



It is with great sadness that we announce the end of an era. Our Busy Bees have called it a day.

Since 1979 Eleanor McGlaughlin and since 1987 Louise Gili have sent newborns home with Christmas and Easter buntings. In 2011 they both were given the Lifetime Achievement Award for their years of volunteering at Overlook Medical Center.

We will miss them and their cheerful smiles on the Thursdays they came to work together. We wish them well as they take some well deserved leisure time.

HAPPENINGS

Dear Overlook Auxiliary Board Members:

As Thanksgiving approaches I wanted to share with you how grateful I am for your generosity that allows me to journey with the palliative care patients at Overlook Medical Center.

I just came from a patient's room whose family had to make the difficult decision to withdraw life-sustaining treatment. I had spent time with the patient's wife earlier in the week and we talked at length about her own spiritual journey that embraced a diversity of religious and spiritual perspectives. This morning, one of the palliative care team members called to tell me the ventilator was going to be removed and that the family had asked that I be with him when it happened, since they did not feel they could stay in the hospital while it was being done. I went down to check on the timing and ran right into the wife, who embraced me and told me that she had just said goodbye, but could not bear to leave. Seeing me, she said, was a sign to her that it was OK and he would not be alone. I had the privilege of sitting with her husband for about an hour before he died. As I prayed for him and his devoted family, I felt a great sense of peace in the room.

This will not be my only contact with this family, since I will be following up with them periodically over the next year, as they continue to mourn this loss. I have come to recognize how important this bereavement care is for persons like this wife who have had to make difficult choices in the hospital. A few weeks ago I spoke to a woman who was getting married the next day, only two short weeks after her mother had been withdrawn from a ventilator. She and I were able to come up with a way for her mother to be “present” at the wedding, as she decided to wear a piece of jewelry that was a favorite of her mother's.

I could fill pages with story after story of wonderful people who I have met over the last few months, and I have you to thank for this sacred work that allows me to shed a small light in the midst of dark and trying times.

May you all experience a joyful holiday season, filled with blessings and peace.

Sharon Burniston

OUR AUXILIARY SPIRIT AT ITS BEST

