



Thompson House

Volunteer Gazette

REHABILITATION & NURSING CENTER ♦ RESIDENTIAL CARE ♦ OUTPATIENT REHABILITATION

A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF THOMPSON HOUSE

SPRING 2012

BRATTLEBORO MUTUAL AID
ASSOCIATION, INC.
2012

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FRIENDS OF THOMPSON HOUSE

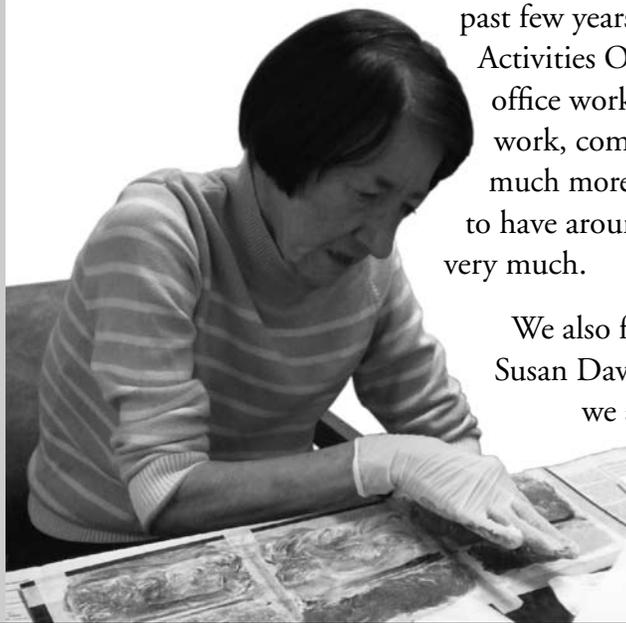
SPRING IS HERE AGAIN and there is so much to do and there is so much we have done! First things first, we extend our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you, our volunteer family. Thank you for so many things: your many acts of kindness, your commitment, your patience, your precious time spent enriching the lives of our Thompson House residents, your willingness to share your talents and resources to enliven our days, and your endless hours of devotion which change our world. Thanks for all you do, and most importantly, thanks for being here for me. Thanks to you, the Thompson House Activities Program is truly a partnership we can all be proud of. I am honored to know you and look forward to sharing the new season with you.

—Sandra Ware, *Activities Director*

IN MEMORIAM

WE DEDICATE this issue of the *Volunteer Gazette* in memory of Sheila Groeger. Sheila served as Secretary of the Board of Directors at Thompson House. Sheila was a true friend of Thompson House for her entire life, and we have been truly blessed by her many contributions over the years. In the past few years she volunteered daily in the Activities Office, helping out with general office work, documentation, calendar work, computer work, mailings and so much more. Sheila was a wonderful person to have around and we will all miss her very much.

We also fondly remember volunteers Susan Davis and Melinda Bussino, and we are grateful for having had the opportunity to know and work with them.



FROM THE OFFICE OF OUR ADMINISTRATOR



Dane A. Rank
Administrator

April, 2012

Dear Volunteers,

With the Spring season, and another edition of the *Volunteer Gazette*, we reflect on all of the work our volunteers have done to improve the lives of our residents over this past Winter. The Christmas carols and hot cocoa's warmed our hearts and lifted our spirits during these past cold months. This year, we are also making some changes at Thompson House to improve the lives of our residents:

As many of you have seen, we have begun work on the "Cooler and Greener Project" to provide an environmentally conscious air conditioning system for resident rooms and common areas. We apologize for any inconvenience during construction and ask that everyone please be patient as the contractors install the refrigerant piping and air conditioning units in resident rooms. We will do our best to make sure that everything goes as smoothly as possible. If you have any questions or issues, please feel free to call extension 201, or ask me anytime. I will respond to all questions. The system should be completed by mid June, just in time for the hot weather.

Another long-awaited announcement is that starting April 1st we are offering free resident wireless service on the middle and upper levels. We decided to provide this free service in order to promote the use of computers for communication and recreation. Please feel free to ask for the password at the front desk. Due to the complexity of different computers, we cannot ensure that all residents can connect to the internet. However, we will ensure that the service is provided, and we are happy to lend a hand if we can help. Happy surfing!

Activities of music, painting, and preaching make Thompson House a home. We thank our volunteers and contributors for all you do to make Thompson House a comfortable, fun, and loving place. Thank you for investing your time, energy, and talent to enrich the quality of life of others.

Sincerely,



Dane A. Rank, *Administrator*

NEWS FROM THE ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT

WE CELEBRATED the holidays with joy. Many thanks to all for making this the season to remember. We took trips out and about to see the holiday lights, especially enjoying “The Farm” in Chesterfield. Thanks to all who joined with us to brighten our holidays with Christmas carols. Thanks also to Rabbi Tom for bringing us Music and Message. There were tantalizing holiday treats, including lots of eggnog and exotic cocktails. Our tables were decorated with dazzling works of art by Putney Grammar School students, work by Todd Kelley and floral displays donated by the Brattleboro Garden Club. Thanks to the Brattleboro Rotary Club for thinking of us and providing beautiful Christmas presents. David and Shirley Emery proved there really is a Santa, and Mrs. Claus too.

We enjoyed great presentations in December: Armchair Travel with Charles Marchant, A Look in the Rear View Mirror with Bob Engel, and Winter slides with Les and Arlene Sherman. Also, Lise Sparrow and Community Church



left to right: Santa and Mrs. Claus, David and Shirley Emery, Assistant Activities Director Meredith MacDonald, and Administrator Dane Rank.

joined us for weekly worship programs.

We rang in the new year with fond memories of the exciting places we have visited and the wonderful people we have spent time with, and with joyful anticipation of all the great days to come. We made a big New Year’s resolution: “Let’s continue to live each moment to its fullest!”

In January, we welcomed Patti Smith who presented a program on wildlife beavers. Chris Petrak brought “Backyard Birds” to our home. Alice Gausch and her husband Jack shared a gallery exhibit of his fine art work with us. Ayla Clark of Istanbul Kitchen brought Spanikopita, offering great tastes for our palettes. We also enjoyed

great Chinese luncheons delivered to us from Panda North. January was a terrific month for dog-lovers at Thompson House. Doreen Wonderlick presented an Italian greyhound fashion show. Huntley Hashagen and Judy Lefevre presented a dog show for us. And Jason O’Brien surprised us with a dog demo.

January was also a musical month. We danced to the sound of “Town Hall Boys.” We were serenaded by the accordion music of Fred Wolfe and Ginny Knapp. We thrilled to the bagpipe music of Eric Goodchild. We enjoyed soulful tunes from A Chaired Taste chorus and Hallowell singers. And students from Putney School paid us a surprise visit on Martin Luther King Day, presenting a “Freedom Songs” program.

continued on page 4

Avenue Grocery

82 Western Avenue, Brattleboro

GENERAL STORE

7 AM – 9 PM

HOT DOGS • GROCERIES

SOFT SERVE ICE CREAM

257-1846

NEWS FROM THE ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT

continued from previous page

With so much excitement in January, we still found time to relax with Cheryl Wilfong's Mindfulness program.

February is the month of love and food. And what could be sweeter than a chocolate fondue party with Tina Blust. But, we had plenty of other delicious treats as well. We also licked our chops on Lox and Bagel Day. We enjoyed shrimp appetizers, and margaritas. We had our monthly soft serve ice cream from Avenue Grocery. We had donuts from both Adams Donut Shop in Greenfield, MA and Paradise Farm in Brattleboro. We honored our veterans with a Veteran's Dinner with speaker Richard Guthrie.

February was also a good month for intellectually stimulating programs and civic duty. Thanks to Bill Holiday from B.U.H.S. for coming in to talk to us. Lani Wright presented Armchair Travel. Brattleboro Town Clerk Annette Cappy helped us with voting and absentee ballots. Mollie Burke presented an update from Montpelier and extended an invitation for a visit on April 11th.

In February, we also enjoyed art, entertainment and music. Our



The Brattleboro Women's Chorus sings for Thompson House residents.

gallery visits were well-attended. Painter Maisie Crowther brought us a gallery exhibit and will return in the Spring for Art in Motion. We enjoyed special musical renditions with The Resident Band, Melodeons and a Mardi Gras program with Samirah Evans and Eugene Uman. Phalan Muller treated us to bagpipe music.

Our annual memorial service was held on Sunday, February 19 and we fondly remembered our friends who have passed.

March blew in like a lamb.

With Spring in the air, our thoughts turned to fishing when we enjoyed a presentation by Thomas and Michael Drummey on The Art of Fly Tying.

We have also enjoyed many wonderful music programs in March including Jon Evans, Gin Mill Bill, The Bills Band, Tony Barrand, St. Michaels Irish Singers, Jay Morris on the accordion, Eris Howe, Alice Gausch, Richard Erickson, Blanche Mills on the keyboard, and Dan Sicken on the guitar.

PANDA NORTH

Chinese & Japanese Restaurant

1332 Putney Road • Brattleboro, VT

Tel: 257-4578 / 257-4486

Fax: 257-1491

www.pandanorth.com

Thanks for order-out Chinese luncheons!

ACTIVITIES MOTTO:

Keep your feet on the ground, but let your heart soar as high as it will.

Walgreens

Photo Department

476 Canal Street • Brattleboro, VT

254-5633

Thanks Sandy for all your special TLC with our photos, your donation of shampoo and Red Sox and Patriot props!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 11 Trip to Montpelier
- April 23 Ibiwisi Alpaca visit
- April 24 Art in Motion, Maisie Crowther
- May 2 Trip to Mohegan Sun
- May 3 Thompson Chorus begins with Becky Graber
- May 23 Trip to Butterfly Farm
- May 30 Heifer parade
- June 15 Fishing - Weatherhead Hollow Pond
- June 26 "Franko" the donkey visits
- July 4 July 4th parade participation
- July Trip to Maine
- August Westmoreland Town Band
- September Senior Olympics at Applewood, Winchester, NH



WELCOME

The Brattleboro Women's Chorus, under the direction of Becky Graber, visits Thompson House the last Tuesday of each month. They always remember all of our birthdays, with rousing renditions of Happy Birthday to residents with birthdays during the month. Thanks, Becky Graber.



Ken and Cal Heile and friends.

A RECENT LETTER TO THE EDITOR, BRATTLEBORO REFORMER

Editor of the Reformer:

We, the residents of Thompson House would like to thank the following local establishments for their support of our in-house "Taste of Brattleboro" dining experience. Our "thanks" to you for making it possible to enjoy the signature dishes from these fine establishments.

We tasted homemade doughnuts from Paradise Farm, cheese and crackers from Grafton Cheese, authentic New England clam "chowda" from the New England House, lobster luncheons from Gillies Restaurant, Chinese luncheons from Panda North, pumpkin pie from The Vermont Country Deli, apple pies from the Dummerston Apple Pie Festival, Spanikopita from Ayla Clark and monthly soft serve ice cream from Avenue Grocery. Delicious and mouth watering... .

Thank you, Brattleboro for your continued support.

Peggy C., David G. and Florence D.
Thompson House Resident Council Presidents
February 5, 2012

COMMUNITY SERVICE

WE CONTINUE TO COOK. Our Cooks Corner program, directed by Helen Davis, bakes for the Turning Point and The Drop In Center.

HOLLANDS BLOOM

Thank you Linda Bailey.



Beautiful flower gardens,
flower beds, flowers on the grounds
254-6965

THOMPSON HOUSE MAKES THE NEWS

◆ Brattleboro Reformer, *February 2012*

Article by Susan Johnson

Green Street School jump ropers entertained residents at Thompson House. Thanks, Susan Johnson.



SUPER THANKS...

We give our quarterly Super Thanks to the following financial contributors to the Activities Program: Tony Foltz, Margaret Bemis, Eris Howe, Richard and Marge Guthrie, Annie Hatfield, and Orly Munzing. There are so many other friends to thank for financial contributions in memory of friends. Thanks to all of you.

ART DONATIONS

PLEASE VISIT the lower level of Thompson House to see recent art acquisitions including photography donated by Ladd Butler and landscape painting donated by Steve Donovan. Steve Donovan's artwork can also be viewed in the windows of Brooks House.

WE NEED YOUR HELP...

IS THERE ANYONE with knowledge of who might have donated the antique cash register to Thompson House? Please notify Activities at ext. 242.

HAPPY HOUR SERVICE

Cheese & crackers
courtesy of

**Grafton Village
Cheese Company**

www.graftonvillagecheese.com

MORE NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- ❖ The student Council of Oak Grove School visited us around the holidays.
- ❖ The Brattleboro Womens Chorus entertained us on Valentine's Day with love songs.
- ❖ We sent a letter to President Obama inviting him to visit Thompson House during his Vermont visit.
- ❖ The business office of C&S Wholesale Grocers will be developing a partnership with Thompson House painting fences, planting pansies in shoes.
- ❖ Rupa Cousins brings Paneurhythmy to Thompson House 6 times a year.
- ❖ We will be picking our Kentucky Derby Horse and drinking Mint Juleps.
- ❖ Elsie and Serenity are bringing circus acts to Thompson House (New England School for Circus Arts).
- ❖ David Emery and The Red Knights are planning a motorcycle Cruise In for this Spring.



NEW SHOPPING CART PROGRAM

OUR NEW SHOPPING CART program involves room to room visits every other Monday. All items are under \$1. Save your bingo winnings and scratch ticket winnings! Items will include chocolate, jewelry, stamps and much more.

VOLUNTEER REMINDERS

- ◆ Please wear a name tag
- ◆ Please remember to respect the confidentiality of our residents
- ◆ Please knock on doors before entering
- ◆ Please call us if you feel your health would put our residents at risk

—Sandy Merkle, RN,
Infection Control

WISH LIST:

- ★ Gifts for birthday presents
- ★ Pansies for the patio
- ★ Scarves, chocolate bars, Red Sox hats
- ★ CD players
- ★ Straw hats

PARADISE FARM SUGARHOUSE

Marlboro Road • Brattleboro, VT

258-2026

Activities purchases donuts from Paradise Farms monthly. Thanks, Lisa.



WATCH FOR:

THOMPSON HOUSE EXHIBITS IN THE WINDOW OF KEY BANK
JUNE 4 - JUNE 15

SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR GREAT VOLUNTEERS

ALTHOUGH YOU ARE ALL VERY SPECIAL and do a phenomenal job with our residents, all of us can use reminders now and then.

- ▼ When communicating with our folks, please be aware who is hard of hearing, who may be cognitively impaired, and who may have visual impairments or other barriers which may impact the way in which they respond.
- ▼ Make sure you are aware of any and all dietary restrictions before serving residents any food or drinks. Do their liquids need to be thickened? Can they feed themselves?
- ▼ Remember, nicknames are only permitted with the residents' approval.
- ▼ If taking residents outside, please be aware that some of our folks take medications that make them very susceptible to sunburns. Make sure they get sun tan lotion on exposed skin.
- ▼ Be aware of the need for good hand hygiene.

Thanks again for your time with the residents.

—Sandy Merkle, RN,
Infection Control

VOLUNTEERS hail from all walks of life. Our volunteer family numbers over 150. Thanks to all for room to room activities, music concerts, buffet meals, animal therapy, spiritual activities, poker parties and art classes.

HEALTHY HINTS FOR SPRINGTIME



- ❁ Please note the new notices posted around the facility regarding visiting the residents and abide by them.
- ❁ Also try to remember to keep yourself healthy as the weather changes.
- ❁ Wash your hands often. Good ol' soap and water will eliminate 99% of all germs.
- ❁ Please note that we have installed new hand sanitizers in key spots around the facility. Feel free to use them often.

I hope all of you have a healthy and happy Spring and Summer.

—Sandy Merkle, RN,
Infection Control

SHARING EXPERIENCES

We always welcome:

- ◆ Singers, musicians and performers
- ◆ Adventure travel – A trip to share
- ◆ Gallery visits
- ◆ Gallery exhibits, art and sculpture
- ◆ Collections to share
- ◆ Small animal visits

VOLUNTEER WISH LIST

- ❖ Volunteers to help with Morris Dancers
- ❖ Volunteers to help with July 4th parade
- ❖ Volunteers to help water the garden
- ❖ Volunteers to be a friendly visitor
- ❖ Volunteers to read to residents
- ❖ Volunteers to sit on the patio

The *Volunteer Gazette* is published quarterly by the Activities Department at Thompson House.



Thompson House

ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT:
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