



HEBREW HEALTH CARE  
*for health, for life*

# Family Newsletter

June, 2008



## **Hebrew Health Care's Nurses Honored with Nightingale Awards**



Hebrew Health Care proudly announces that two of its nurses were award recipients at the Nightingale Awards developed and hosted on May 8th by the Visiting Nurse Association of South Central Connecticut. About 100 nurses were honored state-wide for their excellence in nursing through this program.

Our award recipients, Nancy Kelly, Evening Supervisor and RN, was recognized for her leadership in the care and services of the night shift. Calm and confident, she is able to analyze a situation in an instant. Nancy has given 19 years of service to nursing and to being the supportive individual when everyone else is home in bed.

Suzanne Rogers, staff Nurse on our Medical Hospital Unit, was acknowledged for her 41 years as a nurse. She has seen many changes in the profession. Flexible enough to adapt, she has kept the important values of nursing and built upon them. She recently made arrangements during a snow storm for a hospice patient's family to come and stay at the unit so they could be near and not worry about traveling in the foul weather.

Diane Kyle, Director of Nursing for The Hospital at Hebrew Health Care stated, "We are very proud that our nurses are getting the recognition they so rightly deserve. They put their hearts into the GeriCentric Care they provide. Their dedication to our patients and their excellent nursing practices are second to none." Held at the Marriott Downtown, the program included a LifeStar Flyover Tribute to Nursing, welcome by Ellen Rothberg, President/CEO of VNA Healthcare, program history, video presentation about the passion of teaching, salutes to nurses and award presentations. Of the award recipients, Louise Leitao, Vice President of Nursing commented, "These two nurses represent the great team we have here at Hebrew Health Care. Their recognition allows us to celebrate our terrific staff, and the high level of care they provide. Our reputation for excellence is due to all our nursing staff. We wouldn't be who we are without them."

### **Enriching Life: Recreation at Hebrew Health Care**

by Pamela Atwood, MA, CDP, Director of Life Enrichment and Dementia Care

At Hebrew Health Care, we know that recreational activities keep our residents engaged and interested in life. More than just an attempt at keeping hands busy, we believe that the lives of older adults are truly enriched through therapeutic recreational programming.

Our Life Enrichment programs are created and facilitated by our experienced Therapeutic Recreation staff and several dedicated volunteers. Programs are designed to meet a variety of needs, such as physical activity, cognitive stimulation, leisure and creative pursuits, spiritual support, sensory stimulation, and socialization. The staff adapts programs to meet the various abilities of our population. Each resident thus has opportunities for success built into each day. For example, a resident who cannot participate in gardening might enjoy smelling scented geraniums, or clipping a small container of ornamental grass. Our newest programs include:

- \* Computer classes for residents
- \* "Green Thumbs" gardening club
- \* Wii gaming (thanks to the successful raffle held by the Happy Helpers!)
- \* More out-trips (which will further increase after we make delivery of our new van)
- \* Companion Radio (see article in this newsletter)

Many of our programs are only possible thanks to the assistance and dedication of our volunteers and the staff in Volunteer Resources. Together, Hebrew Health Care helps residents live life, no matter what stage of life, no matter the physical, cognitive or other challenges they may face. Life Enrichment is vibrant at Hebrew Health Care, keeping residents engaged in living life to its fullest. We welcome you to come by and see for yourself ~ maybe the residents will challenge you to a friendly game of Wii golf!



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# You're Invited to Our Birthday Parties!

Each month the Recreation Department hosts a *BIRTHDAY PARTY*, complete with balloons, refreshments and entertainment. If you know a resident with an upcoming birthday, please join us and share in the festivities!



## BIRTHDAY PARTY DATES:

July 9th at 2:15 pm, 4s Birthday party with Nina Romanenko

July 24th at 2:15 pm, Karen Kurowski Auditorium

August 26th at 2:15 pm, Nina Romanko - Auditorium

August 12th at 2:15 pm, 4 South Birthday with Barbara Vine

September 25 th at 2:15 pm, Birthday Party with Larry Batter



## SPECIAL EVENTS AND FUTURE ENTERTAINMENT

July 2008, "Companion Radio" 4 stations, coming to FM radios at Hebrew Health Care

Monday, July 14, 10 am, Roger Hart, "Arcadia" in the Auditorium

Wednesday, July 16, 10:30 am, Singing with Gia in the Auditorium

Thursday, August 14, 10:30 am, Music with Dina Simanovich in the Auditorium

Thursday, August 21, 10:30 am, Sing Along with Brian Gillie in the Auditorium

Sunday, September 7, 3:30 pm, "Concert on the Green" musical guest Flamingo! (Sept. 14th Rain Date)

Tuesday, September 16th at 10:30 am, Music with Kayte Batte

Wednesday, September 18th at 10:30 am, Music with Dina Simanovich

## COMPANION RADIO AT HEBREW HEALTH CARE

We are proud to announce that the residents and patients of the Gene and Anja Hebrew Home and Hospital will be able to enjoy an exciting and innovative program called Companion Radio. Companion Radio provides us with four channels of programming for residents 24 hours a day delivered by satellite to any standard FM radio. The radio stations are specifically designed to target and engage older adults.

The four stations that our residents will be able to select from include the:

- \* Imagination Station featuring classic theater programs
- \* Potpourri Station offering games, exercise classes and senior news
- \* Reminiscence Station playing music from the late 1920s to the 50's
- \* Serenity Station providing soothing and relaxing programming

Residents along with their family members will enjoy gathering around the radio for wholesome, enjoyable entertainment that will delight everyone. The first-year of this three-year program was made possible by the Kadden Family who donated the first-year of Companion Radio in memory of their loving mother, Adele and in honor of their father, Siegmund, who resides on the 2nd floor at Hebrew Health Care; and we are grateful for their generosity.

# Our Lobby is Getting a Facelift!

*by Vinnie DeSanti and Kristen Kinney*

The furnishings and carpeting in our lobby have served us well since our last significant renovation took place in 1995, largely due to the fine maintenance, cleaning and care provided by our EVS and Plant Operations staff. Directed by the House Committee, we are following the basic design concepts that were created when discussions began about renovating the entire facility. It was determined that a major fundraising initiative would be required in order to renovate our entire facility.

The lobby renovations were made possible by generous contributions from the families of Harry, Robert and William Goldfarb and the Auxiliary of Hebrew Health Care. The construction will be completed in two phases separating out Main Street from the actual lobby. The renovation will begin with replacing ceiling tiles and lighting fixtures, we will remove the large mirror from the lobby and then the walls will be painted. Finally, new carpeting and vinyl wood flooring will be laid. Furniture should arrive during the summer months and will be arranged in clusters to encourage residents, families, visitors and staff to enjoy conversation with one another in a more intimate setting.

A design board will be prepared and placed in the lobby so everyone can see the transformation we have planned!



## The Hospital at Hebrew Health Care Installs Cardiac Telemetry

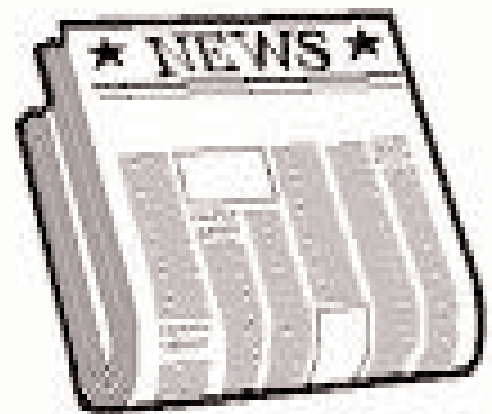
The Hospital at Hebrew Health Care now has the capability to provide continuous cardiac monitoring. Datascope, a leading provider of cardiac telemetry systems, has installed five Passport 2 bedside wireless monitor units and a panoramic central station monitor with a computer data storage system. This system provides a fully alarmed monitor with a screen at the bedside.

Cardiac arrhythmias (irregular heartbeat) are a common occurrence in older patients. Arrhythmias can be a primary diagnosis requiring hospital admission and medical intervention or a secondary result of another condition. Certain medications and procedures may also cause arrhythmias to occur.

Heart rhythm can be measured by performing an electrocardiogram (EKG). This provides a snapshot or "in the moment" view of basic cardiac function. Telemetry is the continuous monitoring of heart rate and rhythm, blood pressure, temperature, respiration and oxygen saturation over time. A fully alarmed monitor is at the bedside and the information is transmitted to a fully alarmed central monitor at the nursing station, thus giving doctors and nurses immediate intervention capability. The rhythm history of each patient is stored in the central monitor computer system so doctors are able to look back and compare changes over time.

The clinical team has undergone extensive training in the use of the equipment as well as additional education in cardiac arrhythmias and care of the older cardiac patient.

The addition of this high level of technology makes it possible for the clinical team to provide safe, effective interventions in a comfortable surrounding uniquely designed to care for older adults and their families.



## FAQs

by Jonas Steiner, MSW, LCS  
VP of Social Work and Admissions

### ***How do I get on the waiting list at the Gene and Anja Rosenberg Hebrew Home and Rehabilitation Center?***

To place your name or a loved one's name on the waiting list at the Gene and Anja Rosenberg Hebrew Home and Rehabilitation Center, you must complete an admissions application form. Contact Hebrew Health Care's Admissions Department at 860-523-3960, or at [admissions@hebrewhealthcare.org](mailto:admissions@hebrewhealthcare.org). This will initiate the application process and issue an inquiry number.

An application will be mailed to you or you can download one from [www.hebrewhealthcare.org](http://www.hebrewhealthcare.org). If the application is downloaded you must fill out the inquiry number on the first page of the application form. (The admissions application will not be considered without the inquiry number.) Once the application is complete, you can bring it or mail it to:

Admissions Department  
Gene and Anja Rosenberg Hebrew Home and Rehabilitation Center  
1 Abrahms Boulevard  
West Hartford, CT 06117

## Homecoming Event Honors Veterans

Hebrew Health Care honored veterans and their families from our resident community, assisted living community, and staff as part of our Memorial Day Homecoming celebration. The event was inspired by our commitment to quality through the Quality First covenant we entered into with the American Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA).

Festivities began with a flag ceremony by the "Jewish War Veterans," as well as patriotic songs and military service anthems performed by Vivian and Gerald Marks and Larry Cohen. Connecticut Senator Jonathan Harris thanked the veterans for their courage and bravery and gave a brief history of our nation's wars. A representative from Congressman Larson's office also made remarks, stating, "it is an honor to be among you, our nation's heroes." The program ended with a sumptuous dessert reception.



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