

# The Parker Pulse

A Newsletter for the Staff of Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation

Spring 2010



## Message from the President and CEO

### *The Melting Pot Quilt: Diversity Is Our Strength*



The staff, residents and patients at the Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation reflect the strength of the great cultural diversity that is New York and America. Recently, thirty-five residents, under the guidance of Therapeutic Recreation Specialist Karin Cohen, created a "Melting Pot Quilt" that symbolizes the diversity at Parker. Featured at a Hofstra University exhibit on "Creativity and Aging," and now adorning a wall in Parker's lobby, each square of the Quilt portrays an important expression of the resident artist's cultural background. As a popular art activity, the Quilt also brought residents together, resulting in

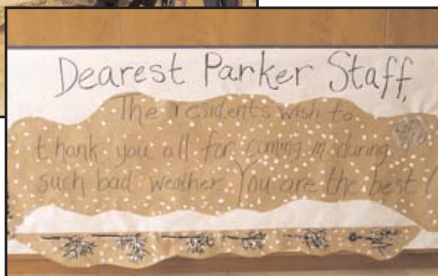
many new friendships and a warm feeling of community. The illustration of the Statue of Liberty, at the center of the Quilt, was selected by the residents because it was the dramatic harbinger of freedom that many residents or their parents saw when they first came to the United States. It was drawn by Al Gordon, a Parker resident and a former illustrator for Marvel Comics. Over the years, Mr. Gordon worked on the drawings of many well known comic characters, such as Batman, Spiderman and Superman, but never for a more appreciative audience than the residents and staff at Parker.

As we move forward to meet the challenges of providing the best, most compassionate health care to all of those we serve, let's continue to draw strength, motivation and joy from the "quilt" of our diverse backgrounds.

Sincerely,

***Michael N. Rosenblut***

President and Chief Executive Officer



## A Special Relationship

The very special relationship between staff and residents at the Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation is evidenced by the sign created by residents, thanking the Parker staff for braving February's record-breaking snow blizzard, and coming to the Institute to serve residents with the everyday excellence and warmth that has become a hallmark of the Parker staff.

## Erin Go Bragh “Ireland Forever”

Talented Irish Step Dancers from the Ryan Irish Dance Academy entertained Parker’s patients, residents and staff in celebration of St. Patrick’s Day. Headed by Kathleen Ryan-Natter, the former lead of the internationally acclaimed production Riverdance, the Academy gives instruction in Bellerose, Greenvale and Oyster Bay. Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer Robert Werner’s daughter, Grace (pictured in green), a student at the Academy, proudly performed with the group. For information on classes, you may visit the website, [ryanacademy.com](http://ryanacademy.com)



(L-R) Resident Tina Onorato and Sarah Kate Breuer



## The Big Read at Parker

A good book is often thought-provoking. It can awaken our imagination and stimulate our emotions. Reading it can add quality time to life, the essence of Parker’s mission. That is why the Institute is pleased to be part of The Big Read, a program of the National Endowment for the Arts designed to revitalize the role of literary reading in American popular culture. During the month of March, complimentary copies of *The Shawl*, Cynthia Ozick’s remarkable fictional work centered on a Holocaust incident, were distributed to a broad range of community organizations. Schools, libraries, museums, senior centers, social and civic groups, also supplied with audio CDs, reader’s guides and teacher’s guides, held book discussions, showed related films, and engaged in other creative activities. A major collaborator, the Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center at Queensborough Community College, organized a number of intergenerational events that illuminated the relevance of the book to today’s world, and reinforced the lifelong value of reading.

## Dr. Foley Leads Transitions of Care Team

Conn J. Foley, MD, Senior Vice President for Medical Services and Chair of the Department of Medicine, led a team of physicians who displayed and demonstrated the use of the electronic version of “Transitions of Care in the Long Term Care Continuum,” at a March 11th symposium of the American Medical Directors Association (AMDA). The presentation included an overview of how medical directors and other practitioners from around the country effected positive change in care transitions. The team also described methods of improving care transitions and reducing unnecessary hospital admissions and readmissions.

Would you like to share information about your department?

Please contact Karen Senecal in Public Affairs, at ext. 2250, with details.

## Parker Answered the Call



In the late afternoon of Tuesday, January 12th, 2010, the people of the Republic of Haiti suffered one of the worst natural disasters of our time, killing more than 220,000 people, and destroying much of Haiti's already ailing infrastructure. Unlike many other tragedies reported in today's media, the people who were suffering were our friends, our neighbors, and our co-workers. Parker and its staff answered the call, prominently posting the names, telephone numbers and email addresses of organizations to which donations



could be made; and providing international telephone service and special incoming lines to assist those seeking to contact family members. Staff, residents and patients came together during this most difficult time for a prayer service. With the staff gathered in the auditorium, prayers were led by Rev. Msgr. Raymond Chappetto. Musician Casey Benjamin played the saxophone, while a chorus of employees, led by guest singer/songwriter

Nicole Guiland, captured the essence of the prayer service with dramatic renditions of "We Are the World" and "Amazing Grace." As it does every day for those we serve, the Parker staff answered the call.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

**Cynthia Gresham, Senior Occupational Therapist**, was appointed to the New York State Breast and Cervical Cancer Detection and Education Program Advisory Council.

"Mazel-Tov" to **Rabbi and Mrs. Elia Solomon**, on the engagement of their son, Simcha Shmuel, to Chavy Charach of Brooklyn.



Congratulations to **IS' Steve Duncan** and Kahdine, on the birth of their daughter, Ariel. Baby Ariel was born on March 13th, at 1:54 pm, weighing 5 pounds 2 ounces.

**Jeannie Doherty-Benckwit, RN, Marketing Coordinator** for Parker's Community Health Programs, was cited as a "Rising Star" by the Courier newspapers of Queens and Long Island.

## "Parker's Social Work Staff Makes a Difference, One Person at a Time."

Leslee Mavrovic, DSW,  
Vice President, Social Work Services

In a world in which "cookie-cutter care" is rapidly becoming the norm, patients and residents at Parker are recognized and treated as unique individuals. Parker's Social Work Services Staff plays an important role in this distinction. The excellence and compassion of Parker's Social Workers, and their dedication to individualized care, were recognized during National Social Work Appreciation Month (March), culminating in a congratulatory luncheon.



**Andy Perino, Assistant Vice President of Facilities Management**, was honored by Parker's Board of Trustees, for more than 26 years of service at Parker. Andy is scheduled to retire this May.

**Peggy Pagan, Development Coordinator**, welcomed two new grandchildren: Steven Andrew Radoslovich, born on February 22nd, and Julianna Renee Molino, born July 12th. Peggy couldn't be happier entertaining all four of her grandchildren.





## Chinese Adult Day Health Care Program Celebrates The Year of the Tiger

Very much a “family affair,” the Chinese New Year was celebrated with entertainment and food at Parker’s Chinese Adult Day Health Care Program.



 Long Island  
Blood Services



## Giving Blood Saves Lives!

The Long Island Blood Services came to Parker for our latest Blood Drive, resulting in a donation of 25 pints of blood. Congratulations to the staff. The next Blood Drive is expected to occur on July 21st . Watch for notices, because giving blood saves lives.



Angeliki Pashos, Building Services



## Welcome Aboard!

**Charles Seide, RPH**, has joined the Parker Team as Director of Pharmacy. Charles is pictured with the Pharmacy Staff.

## Alzheimer’s Center Introduces Evening Program

The Alzheimer's Day Care Center at Parker, a unique, flexible drop-in service that accepts participants at all stages of dementia, recently began offering a Saturday evening session, from 5 PM to 11 PM, once a month. A plentiful, hot dinner is served, and participants are able to enjoy a variety of activities, watch TV, or just chat with friends and staff in the Center's home-like setting, while family caregivers enjoy a well-deserved night out.

## Lorraine Breuer Named One of “Top Ten”

Lorraine Breuer, Vice President of the Nerken Center for Research and Grants, was recognized as one of the “Top Ten Women in Business” by a committee of Queens corporations, banks and institutions at a reception on Thursday, April 8th. Among the audience of more than 700 community businesses were also past winners, Vice President for Patient Care Services, Sylvia Williams, and Vice President for Social Work Services, Leslee Mavrovic.



L-R Vicki Schneps, publisher of the Courier Newspapers; Michael N. Rosenblut, Parker’s President & CEO; honoree Lorraine Breuer; Richard Brown, Queens District Attorney; Helen Marshall, Queens Borough President.

