

Kip Kourrier

Volume X, Issue X

" *Building Bridges for Successful Aging* "

November 2003

Third Annual Hall of Fame

On Thursday evening, October 2nd our Hall of Fame Dinner Dance was held at the Meadowlands Commission Environmental Center. Inductees for the evening; John Hopkins, CEO of Kearny Federal Savings Bank and The Reverend Dianna Bell, Pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Rutherford were the recipients of this year's award. They both lead strong organizations that have been so helpful in supporting 55 Kip Center in our work with older adults and we were delighted to honor them.

John Hopkins

55 Kip Center has been very fortunate to have been the beneficiary of Kearny Federal's generosity. We could not have achieved the level of success that we have without their support. Kearny Federal has been instrumental in promoting the health and well-being of the Center's 700 members as the sponsor of Fitness Day the last 5 years and for that we are grateful. John Hopkins who has served as a member of the 55 Kip Center Board of Directors for 3 years understands the impact of poor health on continued independence for seniors. As the CEO of Kearny Federal, he has committed himself to promoting positive health practices. Last year, the bank sponsored the 10,000 Steps to Freedom walking program. Each participant received a tee-shirt, dyna-band and pedometer courtesy of the Bank.

Reverend Dianna Bell

The Reverend Dianna Bell is an accomplished woman. She is a graduate of the Princeton Seminary and was the first woman ordained as a chaplain in the armed forces. She served in the

Navy for three years and has presided at pastorates across the country. When she made the First Presbyterian Church in Rutherford her home, she also became involved with 55 Kip Center. Reverend Bell has been a member of the Board of Directors since January 1998. In May 1999 she was elected President. Her strong leadership style has been effective in building important linkages between the center and the community. Dianna championed the Center's efforts for national accreditation. In March 2001, 55 Kip Center

became Bergen County's first nationally accredited Senior Center of Excellence. Dianna also participates in the center as a member taking fitness classes on Tuesday and Thursday mornings with Janette.

John Hopkins and Reverend Dianna Bell are valuable members of our Board of Directors. The Center is proud that they have chosen to share their talents with us.

The evening could not have been successful without the help of so many people. Lee Schilare chaired the event for the second year in a row. Her organizational skills and attention to detail is beyond description. The food, music and atmosphere created the perfect setting for an enjoyable evening. Our thanks Rutherford Mayor and Freeholder Bernadette McPherson and Assemblyman Paul DiGaetano who served as Masters of Ceremonies. Special thanks to John Kelly for lending a hand.

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MEET THE STAFF

Pat Yannacci who presently holds the title of program coordinator, came to us a year ago to oversee a grant from the New Jersey Division of Senior Services which provided caregiver workshops throughout the northern regions of New Jersey.

Pat who lives in West Milford with her husband Joe, daughter Tricia, and extended family which consists of Holly and Joseph, brings with her lots of experience in the field of service to the senior population. For more than 15 years she served as the director of Nutrition Services for the County of Passaic overseeing county nutrition sites and the Meals on Wheels program.

Her current duties here at Kip include programming the daily activities and planning the Saturday programs. "I wish more seniors would take advantage of Saturdays at Kip" Pat said. "It's a wonderful day out with delicious food, great entertainment, and the opportunity to see old friends and make new ones." If you have any program ideas or if you have a talent you would like to share, please let Pat know.

SHOPPING TRIPS

Christmas is just around the corner and we have arranged for two trips to local malls for your shopping convenience. The first trip is on Wednesday, November 12 to Willowbrook Mall and the second trip will take place on December 10th to Paramus Park. The cost of each trip is \$2.00. If you are interested, please sign up early as bus seating is limited to 22.

TRIP COORDINATOR

Jennifer Lombardi, a new member of 55 Kip Center has graciously agreed to become our trip coordinator. She asks that you share with her any ideas you have for upcoming trips as she is anxious to start planning for the new year.

DONOR NEWS

There are so many people to thank for helping to make the 3rd Annual Hall of Fame a success:

Centerpiece Sponsors

The Presbyterian Church of Rutherford

55 Kip Center Classes

Lindsay Meyer Memorial Fund

John Hipp, Esq.

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The Rutherford Fire Department

Donations

Kearny Federal Savings Bank, Elaine Adler, Paul Barbire, Esq., Bill Brooks, William Chapman, Ann & Nick Chiaro, Maria Theresa Guterrez, Vic Gardella, John Traficante and The Rev. Donald Pitches

JoAnn Mercklinghaus for her gift of photography, Elegant Jewelers for the beautiful gifts and Varrelmann's Bakery for dessert.

VETERANS' DAY

Veterans Day is dedicated to all the men and women, living and deceased, who have served in the nation's armed forces. President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11th as Armistice Day to commemorate the end of World War I which took place at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

"All gave some, some gave all"

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***KIPBITS*.....**

Thank you to Troop 166 Aaron Aldridge, Damian Ciolko, Joe Driscoll, Chris Mack and Carl Schneck along with their scout leaders and parents for the clean up project on Oct. 4th. Great job!

Ed Schneberger who is a member of our center and our piano instructor is also an artist. His beautiful watercolor and acrylic paintings decorated the walls for the past month. In case you missed it – Ed’s artwork is currently on display in the Rutherford Library.

Our best wishes to Bridge Instructor Tim O’Keefe for a speedy recovery. Everyone misses you and hope to have you back with us soon. We are however, very appreciative of Dave Micci who stepped in to continue the class in Tim’s absence. We are so thankful for all the wonderful volunteers who come to our center.

From the Director’s Desk

Last September the fitness classes participated in the “10,000 Steps to Freedom” in conjunction with the “Live Long, Live Well Walking Program”. The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services sent certificates signed by Governor McGreevy to each participant. If you have not received yours, please see me. On Tuesday, November 25th at 10:30 a.m. Patricia Polansky, Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Health & Senior Services will visit the center to offer her congratulations and make a presentation for a job well done.

November is a very busy month at the center. Be sure to read the list of activities and the calendar so you don’t miss anything. On behalf of the staff I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

55 Kip Center Board of Directors

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