President Bob’s Perspective

Members of the UR Medicine Thompson Health Guild are always busy making plans and coordinating fundraising activities to support the health system. We’re also working hard to build our membership, currently a group of 172 hardworking individuals dedicated to the activities of the Guild.

As you know, the Guild’s primary mission is to support the health system, its associates and its patients, and the Guild has raised and donated several million dollars over the years. To that end, we recently paid off our final balances on $275,000 in pledges for the Breast Imaging Center and the Lactation Center. This made way for us to support Thompson’s newest project – a new, 12-bed Intensive Care Unit and Pulmonary Care Center.

The Guild Board of Directors reviewed items needing support for this project and decided to pledge $280,000 over five years for the Pulmonary Care Center’s equipment and technology needs. We believe this is an important project that will serve the community well and we are glad to help. Last spring we had our annual plant sale, which is always a welcomed event. It helps everyone realize that spring has sprung. We also had another successful Springtime in Canandaigua craft

Upcoming Thompson Health Guild Events

- Springtime in Canandaigua Saturday, April 27 • 10am-6pm; Sunday, April 28 • 10am-4pm; Greater Canandaigua Civic Center, 250 N. Bloomfield Road www.SpringtimeinCanandaigua.com
- Plant Sale Friday, May 24 • 7am-3pm • EF Thompson Hospital Thompson Conference Center, ground floor
- Annual Dinner and Scholarship Awards Wednesday, June 5 • 5:30 cocktails; 6:30 dinner • Ferris Hills at West Lake, Canandaigua
- Fashion Show & Luncheon August TBD, details coming soon

Continued on page 2
President Bob’s Perspective continued

taffle and it created a lot of work for our members. But they were up to it and everything went well! The fashion show was nicely done and all those who attended had a terrific time. The lunch was tasty, the show was fun and there were a number of vendors, so shopping opportunities were vast. There were also a number of very nice donations for the raffles.

The pride of 2018’s Guild-supported programs was the “Baby Ben Bags” project that went from conception to reality in relatively short order. Jacky Crane and Thompson Health Director of Obstetrics Deb Jones, BSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM, PLNC presented the project as a way to support mothers who experienced a miscarriage or stillbirth.

Based on Jacky Crane’s personal journey and experience, the idea is to provide a small gesture of comfort to mothers going through this time of grief. They’re are given a small bag containing a soft blanket, heating pads, a poem, a list of support groups, a small angel pin and a short note from Jacky about her experience.

Jacky manages the process and the Guild provides financial support. Corporate Communications was a great help in pulling this project together. Jacky was also our speaker at the fall luncheon, where she shared her emotional story. Guests opened their hearts with support and shared their stories. It was a very well-received program, filled with love, demonstrating once again that Thompson Health is truly a caring institution.

The Guild Board of Directors was disappointed that the “Better Than Black Friday” event was not held in 2018, but we plan to bring it back this year to provide associates a chance to do some early Christmas shopping at discounted prices.

New Board Members

The Guild welcomed two new members to the Board of Directors: Nash Bock, the executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Ontario County, and Canandaigua YMCA CEO Laurie O’Shaughnessy. “We’re pleased they have joined us, and with their experience in non-profit activities we’re sure they will be great additions to our group,” said Guild President Bob Locke.

Guild Gallery Gift Shop

The Guild Gallery Gift Shop and kiosk are the largest source of income for the Guild, generating 75 percent of the organization’s revenue, and 2018 was a very good year.

“We had an extremely profitable year in 2018,” said Bonnie Dennis, who has served as the gift shop manager for more than eight years.

In fact, the gift shop exceeded budgeted sales by $36,000 and had a profitability rate of more than 25 percent. The numbers are the highest they have been in the eight years Bonnie has been managing the shops.

“We have a magnificent group of volunteers that go above and beyond every day to provide excellent service to our customers,” said Bonnie. “They are the reason that the shops continue to do well and remain a pleasant, fun place to work or shop.

Most of our volunteers are retired individuals who want to continue to contribute to our community. We could not thrive without them. I’m very proud of the job we all do as a team within the gift shops.”

Bonnie has seen Thompson grow in many ways, and knows what it takes for continued growth.

“We have had two excellent CEOs since I’ve been here, both with great visions for the future of Thompson,” said Bonnie. “As we know, all of the expansions and dreams for the hospital come with large dollar signs. The community is extremely generous with donations and the people are very supportive. I find this to be true in many ways within UR Medicine Thompson Health. We are very fortunate to live and work in this community and hospital.”

If you have some time to dedicate to volunteering, please give Bonnie a call at 396-6661. She would love to have you on the team.

“And please remember to thank a volunteer when you have the opportunity,” said Bonnie. “They deserve our appreciation and kindness.”

Pictured are (seated, left to right) Jacky Crane, creator of Baby Ben’s Bags, with Deborah Jones and Cristine Crawford of the Birthing Center at Thompson Hospital, and (standing) Robert Locke, Guild president. This group helped develop the Baby Ben’s Bags, given to mothers grieving a pregnancy loss.

Financial Summary

The Thompson Health Guild had a prosperous and productive 2018. The gift shop, which generates 75 percent of the Guild’s annual revenue, exceeded budgeted sales by $36,000. The shop had a profitability rate of 25.71 percent.

The Guild paid its remaining pledge balances of the Dr. Laurie Sands and Constellation Hills/Clark Meadows Scholarship that is presented annually to an area high school senior pursuing a nursing degree in Pediatric related programs beneficial to the community. We could not thrive without them. I’m very proud of the job we all do as a team within the gift shops.”

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Scholarships Awarded at 2018 Annual Dinner

The Guild's Annual Dinner held in June is a tradition that offers members an opportunity to socialize and learn more about the many initiatives associated with UR Medicine Thompson Health. Another key focus of the dinner is recognition of the annual scholarship recipients. Similar to past years, the scholarship selection process was competitive and yielded four highly-qualified recipients who attended school districts in the Thompson Health network.

Four, $2,000 scholarships are annually awarded to students who will pursue healthcare careers after high school. In addition to choosing a healthcare major, the scholarship eligibility criteria requires the recipients to successfully complete their first semester and provide proof of registration for their second semester in their healthcare major. More than 60 applicants from 15 school districts were considered for the four scholarships.

“As you can imagine, the strong caliber of the applicants provided a real challenge to the scholarship committee to select just four deserving recipients,” said Carol Urbaitis, a member of the Guild’s scholarship committee.

Ellen O'Neil, a graduate of Livonia High School, received the Deborah L. Kimble Memorial Scholarship and is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at Roberts Wesleyan College. Ellen has challenged herself with a strong academic program since eighth grade, never shying away from math and science courses. Her guidance counselor noted that Ellen is “a leader, one who her peers looked to for guidance and strength.”

Ashley Reed, a graduate of Penn Yan Academy, was awarded the Phyllis Ehman Memorial Scholarship and is pursuing licensure through the Finger Lakes Technical and Career Center’s School of Practical Nursing to become a Licensed Practical Nurse. Ashley served as an exterior firefighter for the Branchport/Keuka Park Fire Department and an EMT for Penn Yan. She balanced her volunteer activities with her studies and school activities, and completed her clinical requirement for a Certified Nurse’s Assistant license at Thompson’s M.M.Ewing Continuing Care Center.

Nikolle Van Stralen, a graduate of Bloomfield Central School, was the recipient of the Gerry North Memorial Scholarship. Nikolle was her class valedictorian and received an International Baccalaureate diploma. She’s now pursuing a career in occupational therapy at Nazareth College. Nikolle served as class president throughout her high school years and was National Honor Society vice president. She also was a National Merit Scholar.

Olivia Wethington, a graduate of Canandaigua Academy, received the Theresa Tremain Scholarship. Olivia is pursuing an associate degree and New York State licensure in radiologic technology at Monroe Community College. She graduated a year early from Canandaigua Academy to advance her career goal and to provide support for her family. Olivia grew up in a single-parent household, with a mother who is disabled. She shouldered a significant amount of responsibility while in high school to support her family, including working a part-time job and contributing to household tasks.

The Thompson Health Guild Board of Directors would like to express its appreciation to the scholarship committee – Kathleen Duserick, Edythe Gansz, and Carol Urbaitis. The Board of Directors would also like to acknowledge Kathleen for the leadership she has provided over the years as committee chairperson.

Plant Sale Moved to Friday, May 24

We all look forward to spring and the anticipation of flowers in bloom, and what better way to kick off spring than with the Guild’s annual plant sale. Typically, the sale has been held just prior to Mother’s Day, but due to our unpredictable Western New York weather, people weren’t in the mood to purchase plants the last few years. To hopefully avoid the nasty weather, we have moved the sale to Friday, May 24, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. (or until sold out).

Flowers, hanging baskets, herbs and vegetables will again be featured in the Constellation Center at F.F. Thompson Hospital. Local grower Spring Valley Gardens will provide the flowers at very reasonable prices.
2019 Guild Members as of March 2019

LIFETIME:
Sally Alling
Eileen Alven
Ida Mae Becker
Katharine Brahm
Sally Braun
Martie Buttaccio
Dawn Case
Kathleen Connor
Lucy Cook
Cyndee Cutri
Bobbe Dannenbrink
Marjorie Donhauser
Mina Drake
Kathleen Duserick
Linda Farchione
Hawks
Ellie Fralick
Marianne Gallagher
Edyrhe Gansz
Shirley George
Bonnie Goldstein
Krista Jackson
Peggy Kane
Susanne Kennedy
Jennifer Klein
Joan Kurtz
Jacqueline Lytle
Vicki Mandrino
Myrna Ortiz
Cindy Poole
Martha Potter
Deborah Price
Marilyn Sands
Jeanna Savage
Jean Middlebrook
Beth Thomas
Carrie Vierhile
Judy Voss
Stacie Whitbeck

MEMBER:
Joyce Case-Miller
Judien Miller
Barbara Lazor
Laurie
O’Shaughnessy
Jeanne Schenk
Gail Schirmer

PATRON:
Mary Brady
Donna Crudele
Judy Herbert
Krystyna Loeffler
Gail O’Brien*
Elinor O’Connell

SUPPORTING:
Virginia Cahill
Debra Casella
Judy Conley
Pamela Cooper-Vince
Ruth DeBrock
Joyce DeVito
Patricia Doran
Cynthia Fackler
Mary Hawkins
Gail Herman
Kathryn Kardesh
Anne Kennedy
Mary Kram
Barbara Kurr
Carolyn Lariton
Barbara Lipari
Robert Locke
Alice McConnell
Sandra McGavern
Frieda O’Hanlon
Katie Outhouse
V. Lee Robertson
Walajean Saglett
Linda Sheffer
Diane Sickmond
Bonnie Vahey

MEMBER:
Pamela O’Donnell
Yvonne O’Donnell
Susan Onze
Betty Palmeri
Rosemary Park
Nancy Parsons
Marilyn Pettinger
Ellen Polimeni
Josephine Raguso*
Jeanne Randall
Judy Ready
Barbara
Reigelsperger
Glenna Renaud
Angela Rockmaker
Kathleen Roeland
Kelly Rotter
Deborah Rought
Judeth Russi
Beverly Schroeder
Jean Seager
Mary Semans
Kathleen Shaw
Gail Simmons
Lynne Standish
Janet Starowitz
Arlene Stell
Elizabeth Stewart
Mary Stiffler
MaryAnn Strasser
Sherry Sulkes
Barbara Urbaitis
Carol Urbaitis
Jane Walsh
Joan Weaver
Maureen Welch
Susan Widmer
Ryan Wilmer
Taryn Windheim
Suzanne Winslow
Darline Wise
Patricia Zielinski

BENEFACCTOR:
Mary Allhusen
E. Laurie Bittner
Virginia Butler

Membership update

The Guild formed a committee in 2017 to work with Corporate Communications to review, recruit and retain our membership. We spent many hours sending out timely renewal reminders and thank-you letters along with a discount coupon for the Guild Gallery Gift Shop.

We also had a recruitment drive. Last November we held a one-day open house in the Gift Shop with a coupon for 30 percent off Christmas and everyday items for Guild members only. We hope you took the opportunity to make a purchase and take advantage of your member discount.

Your membership is important to us. You may have seen some of our accomplishments in the new brochure we designed last year. Since 1905, we have continued to grow along with Thompson Health and have raised millions of dollars over the years to help purchase medical equipment and create new space for medical services. We provide scholarships and continuing education funds to local students and associates. We just pledged $280,000 to the new Intensive Care Unit. We could not do all of this without your continued membership support.

We had 147 members in 2017 and increased that to 172 in 2018. Hopefully we will continue to grow. If you haven’t renewed for 2019, I hope you will, and if you know of anyone who might be interested in joining the Guild, please have him or her visit ThompsonHealth.com/Guild or get in touch with Diane Sickmond at (585) 738-4989 or dsickmond09@gmail.com. We hope to introduce an e-newsletter sometime soon to improve our communications with members. It will require all members to provide us with their email address if they have one. The Guild will never share this information with anyone outside of Thompson Health.
Baby Ben's Bags & Vein Viewer

Thompson Health Director of Obstetrics Deborah Jones recently wrote a note of appreciation about the Guild’s support and comfort for mothers who have suffered a miscarriage or stillbirth:

“The Baby Ben’s Bags are here and have been received with amazing enthusiasm and gratitude by all,” she wrote. “Jacky brought them to me yesterday and I gave some to Canandaigua Medical Group and will have a couple in the Surgical Care and the Emergency Departments on Monday. I am so pleased with the reception! This clearly is an area that represented a gap in our care, and everyone has been so grateful to have something tangible to give these moms. Thank you so much Jacky Crane for bringing this concept to us.”

“Thank you Brandi Collett in Corporate Communications for managing the logistics and the beautiful printing, and thanks so much to the members of the Guild who always support us in our endeavors,” Jones’ letter continued. “Your generosity is an ongoing blessing that I truly give thanks for daily. Just yesterday I took our vein viewer to the lab to help with a blood draw on a 5-week-old premature baby and was able to get all the blood we needed with one stick. The lab tech was very impressed, and even more so when I told him it came from the Guild. Please relay our thanks to everyone.”

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The Thompson Health Guild had a prosperous and productive 2018. The gift shop, which generates 75 percent of the Guild’s annual revenue, exceeded budgeted sales by $36,000. The shop had a profitability rate of 25.71 percent.

Our five fundraising events generated income of $57,141, which also exceeded budget by about $2,000. Investment income generated income of about $3,000 and vending machine proceeds topped $51,000.

The Guild paid its remaining pledge balances of the Dr. Laurie Sands and Constellation Brands Breast Imaging Center ($30,000) and the Lactation Suite ($40,000) in 2018. These two projects had multi-year pledge amounts totaling $275,000. Additionally, the Guild donated $500 to the Thompson Foundation’s Rose Walk event, bought a portable vital signs monitor and donated almost $5,000 to the Baby Ben Bags initiative.

As mentioned, the Guild awarded $2,000 scholarships to four area high school seniors pursuing college degrees in medical-related fields. And finally, the Guild pledged $280,000 over four years for the new Intensive Care Unit project.

Russ Kimble Passes

Russell “Russ” Kimble became the second male to join the Thompson Health Guild Board, joining in March of 2014. Russ was active in annual fund raising events including the Plant Sale, Springtime in Canandaigua and the Basket Raffle. Russ established and funds the Deborah I. Kimble Memorial Scholarship that is presented annually to an area high school senior pursuing a nursing degree in Pediatric Oncology. Sadly, Russ passed away unexpectedly on March 12, 2019.
Tree of Lights Remembers and Honors Loved Ones

The annual Thompson Health Guild Tree of Lights celebration provides an opportunity for community members to remember loved ones who have passed away or honor those most deserving. The popular and sometimes emotional event was held on Dec. 3 and began with opening remarks by Thompson Health CEO Michael F. Stapleton, Jr. and Guild President Robert Locke.

As a light snow created a festive winter landscape, Stapleton dedicated the tree to the memory of Bobbie Potter, a long-time Guild member and past president. Thompson Health Chaplain M. Elizabeth Heffernan then blessed the tree and the hundreds of bulbs were energized to the applause of about 200 people in attendance.

A reception was held in the M.M. Ewing Continuing Care Center for the residents and those who attended the outdoor festivities. Cookies and beverages were provided while the attendees listened to holiday songs from the Canandaigua fifth-grade chorus. Santa and Mrs. Claus and the Thompson Bear delighted the crowd with hugs and treats.

Thank you to the 2018 Tree of Lights committee: Mina Drake, Eddy Ganz, Drinda Lofron, Louis Loy, Wally Saglett and Elaine Willard.