I bring you greetings from the Thompson Health Guild Board of Directors. We hope your holidays were filled with family, friends and much joy. We also wish you the best for 2018.

Let’s take a look at what we accomplished in 2017. As most of you know, the Guild’s primary mission is to support UR Medicine Thompson Health, its associates and the patients, and we’ve raised and donated several million dollars over the years. In 2017 we provided two $10,000 grants to support associate education, as well as money to purchase unbudgeted equipment. One of our most significant 2017 donations was to support the building of a Lactation Unit adjacent to the Birthing Center. This benefits Thompson associates and new mothers from the community and provides space for the lactation specialists to conduct training. We also continued to fulfill our previous commitments to Project Excel, the Breast Imaging Center and the annual Rose Walk that benefits cardiac rehabilitation.

The Guild is always looking to the future, which is why we provide four $2,000 scholarships to area seniors pursuing health care careers. This is always a difficult task for the Scholarship Committee, which had to sort through 75 applicants in 2017. The quality of the applicants has been overwhelming and the task of getting to a “Final Four” is time-consuming and somewhat mind-boggling. It’s always a pleasure to hear the students’ stories and meet these deserving applicants at our annual Spring Dinner.

Finally, I must thank everyone involved with our lobby shop operations. The gift shop is the Guild’s most significant source of income. The quality of the items is exceeded only by the quality of the volunteers and staff who work endless hours to make it successful. We were challenged this year with a flooring project that kept the lobby shop closed for six weeks. The shop staff and health system worked together to enhance the kiosk display space and adjust its hours to minimize the impact of the flooring project. The end results were well worth the wait, as the new flooring brings a classy new look to the shop.

There are so many people to thank for our continued success: Guild board members who work numerous hours on all of our events, such as Springtime in Canandaigua, the Fashion Show, Better Than Black Friday Sale, the Christmas bake sale and the Tree of Lights; the Guild members who provide additional help at these events, and, most of all, Thompson Health’s administration and associates who provide guidance and positive feedback for what we do. We are pleased and proud of the support we provide and look forward to doing as much as we can in the future.

We are also busy working to build our membership, which has declined over the last few years. Anyone interested in becoming a member should contact a board member, pick up an application in the lobby shop or check the Guild link on the Thompson Health website for information. We welcome all who may be interested in helping.

One last thought! We are always looking for new ideas for fundraising activities and would appreciate any suggestions. Contact any board member with your ideas.

Better Than Black Friday Sale Brings Holiday Joy to Those with Limited Budgets

The Guild held its annual “Better Than Black Friday Sale” on Saturday, Nov. 18, providing Thompson associates an opportunity to purchase holiday gifts at deeply discounted prices.

The line formed early outside of the TCC on the hospital’s ground floor. The doors opened at 8 a.m., and all the toys were sold within 30 minutes. Small housewares and other gifts were also available at the sale, which was organized by co-chairs Mina Drake and Krista Jackson.

If you are interested in donating new items for next year’s sale, please contact Mina at (585) 490-2590. Donations are accepted throughout the year.

COMING UP!

• Plant Sale, Thursday, May 10, F.F. Thompson Hospital, Constellation Center
• Springtime in Canandaigua, Friday, April 27-Sunday, April 29, Greater Canandaigua Civic Center
• Annual Dinner, TBD
• Build-A-Basket Raffle, TBD
• Fashion Show & Luncheon, Monday, August 27, Canandaigua Country Club
Scholarships Awarded At Annual Dinner

The Guild's Annual Dinner is a tradition that offers members an opportunity to socialize and presents an informative program highlighting the health system. This year, at the urging of our Scholarship Committee, we decided to put the dinner's full focus on this year's scholarship recipients.

Four $2,000 scholarships are awarded to area high school students from within 17 school districts in the UR Medicine Thompson Health area. Students must be registered in a health-related field and must successfully complete the first college semester with the intent to study the second semester in the health-related field. Your Guild dues help fund these scholarships.

Numerous applications were submitted. “To find just four scholarship recipients from a pool of extremely qualified applicants with a real mix of multiple talents is daunting,” said Scholarship Committee Chairman Kathleen Duserick. “These are extraordinary kids doing extraordinary things.”

Chloe Louthan-Green, a student at Naples Central School, was the recipient of the $2,000 Deborah L. Kimble Memorial Scholarship. Chloe was cited as a passionate volunteer, a leader of peers in the classroom and on the sports fields and a student who challenges herself in all subjects. She was to attend Hobart and William Smith Colleges to pursue a liberal arts path with an emphasis on science as she pursues her goal to become a pediatrician.

Cassandra Preston, who attended Victor Central School, received the $2,000 Phyllis Ehmann Memorial Scholarship. When meeting Cassandra for the first time you know you’ve met someone who exudes compassion, confidence, enthusiasm, and is truly committed to working with people and succeeding in her chosen profession as a physician’s assistant. Through her AP courses she has volunteered at Thompson in the surgical care center and the M.M. Ewing Continuing Care Center. She’s enrolled in Daemen College’s 5-year direct entry physician’s assistant program.

Charlotte Mineo from the Marcus Whitman School District received the $2,000 Theresa Tremblay Memorial Scholarship. Charlotte spent her senior year in the New Visions Program held at Geneva General Hospital. Throughout the year in New Visions, Charlotte had the opportunity to interact with professionals, learn the ins and outs of being a physician, have exposure to ethical and social issues and learn work/life balance. Charlotte will pursue a path to become a physician at Union College.

Danielle Gallard, who attended Canandaigua Academy, was the recipient of the $2,000 Gerry North Memorial Scholarship. She was an AP student and took three of the hardest courses at the academy: AP Calculus, AP Physics and AP Chemistry. “She exemplifies a diligent honors student – studious, intrinsically motivated, and eager to show her teachers and classmates she belongs at the top of the list,” according to Mr. Dermody, her honors chemistry teacher.

Danielle lost her mother to cancer, which, of course, was a life-changing event, and she moved in with her brother and sister-in-law. Through it all she maintained academic and social excellence while undergoing emotional trauma that would batter most adults. Danielle was to attend RIT to study bio-medical science. She hopes to attend medical school and eventually become a surgeon.

The Guild Board of Directors sends its appreciation to the Guild Scholarship Committee: Edythe Ganz, Krista Jackson and Kathleen Duserick.

Associate Pens ‘Thank You’ for Scholarship

The Guild recently received this letter from a Thompson associate (who gave us permission to publish it), and it encapsulates why the Guild provides opportunities for advanced learning. Every Guild member – past and present – should feel proud of the Guild legacy we are leaving.

Dear members of the Guild,

Thank you so very much for funding my attendance and participation in two women’s health courses recently. These courses have allowed me to expand my knowledge and expertise in the areas of obstetric care and women’s pelvic health physical therapy. I am now able to offer my services to a wide range of female patients in our community, and my caseload continues to expand.

Your funding allowed me to complete the testing and coursework needed for my CAPP-Pelvic requirements, and I recently completed the final requirement, a case study. I just heard back and my case study passed!!! This finalizes my goal and I am now a CAPP-Pelvic certified therapist. This credentialing makes me more marketable as a women’s health PT.

Thank you again for helping me attain this professional goal. I look forward to helping many women in our community.

Sincerely,
Kim Tesnowitz
Welcome To Our New Board Member

Carol Urbaitis has joined the Guild’s Board of Directors. She has held a variety of leadership roles in student affairs and enrollment management during her 26 years at Finger Lakes Community College. She has served as Vice President of Enrollment Management since September 2008. She also served as Dean of Student Services and Enrollment Management (1995-2008), Assistant Dean of Student Services (1993-1995), and Director of Advisement and Assessment (1991-1993). Prior to her arrival at FLCC, Carol held positions at Baruch College/City University of New York and Old Dominion University. In addition to her role as Vice President of Enrollment Management, Carol serves as the chairperson of the FLCC Association, Inc. Board of Directors. She is also a member of the Geneva 2020 Steering Committee and the SUNY Chief Enrollment Officers’ Council. She co-chairs the Geneva 2020 College and Career Readiness Action Team.

Carol is a past recipient of the State University of New York Chancellors Award for Excellence in Professional Service and the Canandaigua Chamber of Commerce Women of Distinction Award. She received her M.S.Ed. degree in college student development from Alfred University, her B.S. degree in communications from the State University of New York College at Brockport, and an A.A.S. degree in executive secretarial science from the State University of New York College of Technology at Alfred. She is currently completing her Ed.D. degree in Executive Leadership at St. John Fisher College.

Carol and her husband, Mark, have one adult son, Kevin, and reside in the town of Canandaigua.

Gift Shops Welcome More Volunteers, Customers

We are very fortunate to have two successful gift shops. Our main gift shop is located in the lobby area at the main entrance of the hospital, and we also have a satellite kiosk shop located on the opposite side of the hospital in the Constellation Center for Health and Healing. All gift shop proceeds benefit UR Medicine Thompson Health.

Approximately 50 volunteers staff both locations. There are four 3-hour shifts in the main shop per day, and two 3-hour shifts in the kiosk. The main gift shop is also open on weekends. This takes a lot of manpower, which in our case is “volunteer” power! The many hours our volunteers devote save us a lot of money.

You will not find a more supportive, devoted, dedicated group of volunteers anywhere! We appreciate them and all they do for us. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Bonnie at (585) 396-6661. We’d love for you to join our team.

Most of our inventory in the gift shops is ordered in Atlanta, Ga. We have a unique variety of items that vary from season to season. If you have not shopped in the gift shops, we invite you to pay us a visit. You will be pleasantly surprised with the items we carry.

Tree of Lights Brings Community Together, Raises Funds

The Guild’s annual Tree of Lights event took place on the evening of Dec. 4, and for each donation in memory or in honor of an individual, a glowing light was placed on the evergreen tree outside the main entrance of Thompson Hospital. Donors and other members of the community, close to 200 strong, came together to watch the tree-lighting ceremony take place. Afterward, many of them joined residents of Thompson’s M.M. Ewing Continuing Care Center for a reception inside the center. Santa, Mrs. Claus and Thompson Bear took part in the festivities, which featured 30 members of the Canandaigua Elementary School fifth-grade chorus, under the direction of Emily Phillips, singing holiday songs.

More than 500 people were recognized by this event, either in memory or in honor. Those recognized will have their names added to the Tree of Lights commemorative book.

In all, the Tree of Lights raised more than $5,700 this year. We thank everyone for their support and remind you that you can make your donation next year online by visiting the Guild’s website at www.ThompsonHealth.com/Guild.

In Remembrance

Past board member Roberta (Bobbie) Potter, who briefly served as Guild president from 2009-2010 until a major medical issue forced her to step down, passed away in September 2017 at the age of 80. Bobbie was born in Buffalo, graduated from Brighton High School in 1955 and volunteered for several years at the Ontario County Health Facility. She enjoyed entertaining family and friends and is remembered as a loving wife, mother and grandmother. Bobbie served as Guild president with dignity and honor, and the Board is grateful for her commitment and service to patients, associates and the Continuing Care Center senior community. We offer our sympathy to her husband and family during this time of sadness.

Carol Urbaitis

In all, the Tree of Lights raised more than $5,700 this year. We thank everyone for their support and remind you that you can make your donation next year online by visiting the Guild’s website at www.ThompsonHealth.com/Guild.
Bake sale, which would allow associates and residents an opportunity to purchase delicious homemade goodies. Grab-and-go cookie bags were popular with those looking to satisfy a sweet tooth!

The organizers wish to offer a big thank you to all the Guild members who donated baked goods for this sale, which raised more than $800.
Luncheon Speaker Discusses Overcoming Life’s Challenges

Another annual tradition, our fall luncheon, was marked in October at Ferris Hills at West Lake. Guest speaker Hope Moffett, author of “Traumatic Brain Injury: The Long Road Back,” spoke about her own story of overcoming life’s unexpected challenges.

Hope and her husband, Bill, led a very active professional life. Hope is publisher emeritus of Vineyard & Winery Management. She and Bill organized national wine competitions, seminars and trade shows. Avid sailors, they owned many sailboats. Most trips were on Seneca Lake, but other cruises included circumnavigations of Lake Ontario, and they lived on their boat in Toronto, Canada during the summers of 1999 and 2000.

And then tragedy struck. Hope and Bill had retired only months before when a serious auto accident turned their life upside down, and pointed them in an entirely different – and horrendously challenging – direction.

Hope talked about how you might think you have your life planned out and a vision of how things will be and then you get a huge curveball that changes everything. How do you cope, go on and even find joy or purpose? Getting on they did. Months and months of rehab brought slow progress for Bill. He recovered (with some issues) but given the early diagnosis it’s amazing how he has overcome the odds, Hope told the audience.

Hope’s book is available online and at Wood Library in Canandaigua. And, by the way, she and Bill reside at Ferris Hills.

The Financial Year In Review

Louis Loy, Treasurer

The financial picture of the Thompson Health Guild is stable, but not without challenges. A downward trend in membership impacts the volunteer pool for staffing at fundraising events, as well as revenue generated from member dues. Guild President Bob Locke recognizes the membership issue, and with the support of the Guild Board is pursuing tactics to promote interest in the Guild. Another challenge was the closure of the gift shop for six weeks due to construction in that section of the hospital.

Although the latest financial report is through October 2017, income from the gift shop is projected to be $255,000, only $5,000 below the budgeted amount. Kudos to Bonnie Dennis and her volunteers for an amazing recovery.

During 2017, there were eight fundraisers that generated approximately $20,000 in profit.

The Guild Board authorized $75,000 over three years to construct and furnish a lactation suite. A final payment of $47,500 toward Project Excel pledge of $300,000 was made in June. Payment was also made to the CCC Rehab Project ($800), Breast Imaging Center ($10,000), Rose Walk ($500), and health system educational fund ($10,000). We also provided $8,000 for four scholarships to high school seniors who pursue an education in the medical field.

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Anita Pietropaolo
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Mission Statement

The mission of the Thompson Health Guild shall be to provide assistance and support to the Thompson Health System, its patients and its associates, and to act as a liaison for the community and Thompson Health. The Guild’s efforts will focus on public relations, fundraising, health advocacy and related programs beneficial to the Thompson Health System.

Gail O’Brien, Writer
Mike Fowler, Editor
Brandy Collier, Production Coordinator
Send comments to fhfguild@gmail.com.
2017 Guild Fashion Show

The Thompson Guild Fashion Show took place on August 21 at the Canandaigua Country Club Event Center. It was a beautiful sunny day by the lake with approximately 225 people in attendance.

The fashions were presented by Jane Morgan's Little House and narrated by owner Randi Zabriskie and Jeff Anthony of Dick Anthony LTD. Models were provided by Jane Morgan's Little House and included Guild members Linda Proctor, Tally Gwynn as well as Michael Stapleton, Kurt Koczent, Rick Hawks and Frank Hamlin III.

The Fashion Show was a big success and raised approximately $7,000 to support Dr. Laurie Sands and Constellation Brands Breast Imaging Center at Thompson Health. Many thanks to all who supported the show and we hope you will attend this year's event in August.

This year's committee consists of Jean Seager (chairwoman), Mina Drake, Edythe Gansz, Vicki Mandrino, Gail O'Brien, Judy Reader and Barb Urbaitis.