



Brattleboro Area Hospice *Newsletter* August 2007

Brattleboro Area Hospice • 191 Canal Street • Brattleboro, Vermont 05301
802-257-0775 • E-mail: brattleborohospice@verizon.net

You are invited to a
Garden Party

Join us to celebrate the renovation of
the Hospice Memorial Garden

Saturday, August 11

2:00-4:00 pm

Tea and cookies

Live music

Raindate: Saturday, Sept 9th, 3pm



HOSPICE AWARDED CHALLENGE GRANT!

Very soon many of you will be receiving a fundraising letter asking for your help with our beautiful new garden. Please consider sending in a donation toward this project. We are pleased to announce that the Thompson Trust has generously awarded us a matching grant, doubling the impact of your donation!

BULB FUNDRAISER



Hospice volunteers are selling bulbs to raise funds for the garden. Board members will be selling bulbs at the Garden Party on August 11th; we are also looking for volunteers to sell bulbs to their friends and neighbors. Please contact Penfield Chester, at 368-2567, or penfieldcm@aol.com if you are interested.

MEMORIAL PLANTING SERVICE

This year's Memorial Planting Service, Sunday, September 9th at 1:30 pm will include music, readings and of course the opportunity to plant an annual or perennial to honor loved ones and hospice clients who have died in the past year. If you would like to include a name on the memorial list from which we read while planting, please call the Hospice office, 257-0775, by August 28. Also consider inviting or accompanying to the service a hospice family member with whom you've been connected.

New this year will be a dove release. Mary Peterson will bring her "homing doves" and we will invite children and others to take turns releasing the birds while silently sending wishes, messages or prayers with them.

Volunteers can be of use in several ways for the Garden Grand Opening (see insert) and for the Memorial Service. Are you a baker, a gardener, a greeter? See the next page for how you can help; then give us a call! Thank you so much.



Volunteers needed for preparing the garden before the grand opening, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 6:30-8:30 PM and before the Planting Service WEDNESDAY, SEPT 5, 6:30-8:30 PM, providing snacks, and helping the day of the service. Please call Jennifer, Melissa, or Elizabeth at 257-0775 if you can help with any of these tasks. Thank you!

FROM BETH...

Thank you to all who made our volunteer party a wonderful success. The setting at Solar Hill was beautiful, and everyone seemed to have a great time. It was a close competition between the Hallowell singers and the Hospettes, but, well, we all know who really can sing.

We are thrilled to announce our new Patient and Outreach Coordinator, Ryan Murphy. Ryan has an extensive background in Social Services and mediation, and has been a part of our community

SHOP TALK...

It is summer and things at the shop are hopping! Lots of people coming and going, lots things being donated, displayed and sold. It is the process that makes the organization work and we love to see it happen! From time to time, during yard sale and garage cleaning season, it can be a little overwhelming, and it is true...sometimes very overwhelming! There have been a few days in the past weeks where we have been so full that there were boxes and bags up to the donation door and we had to stop accepting donations. We apologize to anyone who has taken the time to bring something in to find that there is no room at the shop. Please know that we do appreciate your donations, we really really do, and that we are working on systems to eliminate "no donation" days.

One of the processes that we have reinstated is that we are taking a moment to look through

WE LOVE

- Furniture
- Antiques, Collectibles
- Art work, Art Supplies
- House wares
- Jewelry
- Vintage clothing
- Natural fiber clothing—cotton, wool, silk, rayon, linen (we prefer items to be in boxes or bags, not on hangers)
- Toys and Games
- Linens
- Small appliances (toasters, CD players, etc)
- Books, records, CDs, Videos

for more than 25 years. He continues his work for Youth Services as a case manager is a Trainer in the Guiding Good Choices program of Brattleboro Area Prevention Coalition, has been a mentor/mediator, coordinator and service provider for Restorative Justice and worked in several specialized skilled nursing facilities. We look forward to our working together and for all of you to get to know him. Please feel free to call and offer a welcome at extension 102.

donations to make sure that most of what is being brought to us is something that we can sell. The limited space for sorting donations, for selling, and for storage, plus the costly process of disposing unsalable items has made this a necessary step. We do not accept items needing washing, mending or other repairs, including used underwear. Please do not be offended if we decide we cannot accept a donation. We really appreciate that you thought of us, but we are familiar with the types of items that sell at the shop. If we accept items that do NOT sell, Hospice must pay to have them hauled away. Thanks for your understanding.

WE CANNOT ACCEPT

- Stained, torn, chipped, rusted or broken items
- Electrical items in need of repair
- Mattresses and box springs
- Refrigerators, stoves, other large appliances
- Computers, printers, faxes, microwaves, humidifiers
- Electric blankets
- Foot baths, portable commodes
- Baby baths/toilets
- Toilet accessories
- Large exercise equipment
- Downhill skis or boots
- Children's car seats or booster seats
- Textbooks, Reader's Digest condensed books, romance novels, religious books
- Tag sale remainders
- Any items that are incomplete, damaged, moldy, mildewed or otherwise un-sellable

Thank you so very much!

The Body's Small Purposes

Ralph Earle

His lungs like exhausted fishermen
drew in their glittering
catch of oxygen and his heart
called to the receding
tides of the blood.

His bony fingers
curled around mine.
I read from Mary Oliver
how the soul may be hard,
necessary, yet almost
nothing, how we all know
the sand is golden
under the cold
waves thought our hands
can never touch it.

The hearing goes last,
the doctor said.

If you're fortunate
this happens only twice,
as we have two parents,
and although a measured number
are called to bear the sorrow
of a child passing,
and although one spouse
outlasts the other,
all come in the end
to this day that is broken
in the middle, never to finish.

My heart glowed
like a well of clear water.
There are no words
for this communion,
this hope that his eyes,
turned from the
sunny branches outside,
could summon a vision
of his loved ones,
his wife of fifty years,
his sister dead in childbirth
before my time,
souls knowing already
this passage and awaiting
him in whatever form of glory
we the living
can conjure for them:

my brothers, me,
our children, all the others
still casting the nets of our breath,
still sifting the golden sands.

One time in his search
for love after my mother died
he told me it never ends.
But it does. On a broken day
the breath stops
and the cells gently fall asleep
and the soul, perhaps puzzled
by this coming to rest
of all the body's small purposes,
rises and looks on the silence
and the dear souls drawn close
and the great hovering angels.

I sat alone with him
until two heavy men in
white shirt sleeves brought
a collapsible cart
and carried him down the dusty stairwell
into the light, his face still wearing
the mask of exhausted surprise.

He left us a sweet generosity
of spirit, to magnify
the golden light
we all carry inside,
and the complications
between parent and child,
one person and another,
the lost nerve-endings,
the thoughts never finished,
were carried away
and composed and dressed neatly
for our friends and neighbors
to say goodbye to
and rendered in the fire of the crematory
to a small box of ashes
to lie until the world is made anew
next to my mother's remains
where the spring wind
blows the catkins and pollen
across the gray stones
and ants build
their tiny cities of dust.

Brattleboro Area Hospice

Board of Directors

Connie Baxter
Penfield Chester
Co-President
Victoria Collins
Sarah Edwards
Tim Gerdes
Treasurer
Greg McAllister
Kris McDermet
Co-President
Greg Moschetti
Ann Switzer
Secretary

Hospice Office

Jennifer Hall
Office Manager
Melissa Hay
*Bereavement Volunteer
Coordinator*
Ryan Murphy
*Patient Care & Outreach
Coordinator*
Beth Newman
Hospice Care Coordinator
Susan Parris
Executive Director
Elizabeth Evans Pittman
Bereavement Care Coordinator

Experienced Goods

Gretchen Horton-Kuebler
Store Manager
Betsy Hall
Store Volunteer Coordinator
Gemma Champoli
Special Projects Coordinator
Hannah Curtin
Hannah Dancing
Tracy DeCell
Rachel-Storm Heasley
Imelda Reilly
April Sommerville
Store Assistants

Calendar

August 2. Volunteer Report Forms due.

August 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, Thursday, 5:30-7 pm. Bereaved Parents Support Group. Call Elizabeth or read July-August SEASONS for date and place.

August 7, 14, 21, 28, Tuesdays, 12:15-12:45 pm. Quiet sitting at Hospice Office. Information: 257-0775.

August 8 & 22, Wednesday, 4-5:30 pm. Spouse/ Partner Loss Support Group. Facilitated by Cheryl Richards.

August 8, Wednesday, 12:30-2 pm. Monthly Volunteer Support Meeting, BAH Upstairs Meeting Room.

August 11, Saturday, 2-4 pm. (Rain date, Sept 9, 3 pm) Garden Open House, Hospice Memorial Garden at Living Memorial Park .

August 13, 20 & 27, Monday, 6:30-8 pm. Loss Writing Support Group. Facilitated by Muriel Winter Wolf.

August 14, Tuesday, 9-11 am. Labyrinth Walk at the McDermet's. RSVP to Jennifer. Meet at BAH office 20 minutes early to carpool.

SAVE THE DATE!

- *Sunday, September 9th, 1:30 pm:* Annual Memorial Garden Service of Remembrance
- *Saturday, October 6th, 7:30 pm:* Marta Gomez Quintet brings Latin rhythms back to Brattleboro! A fundraiser for Brattleboro Area Hospice at the New England Youth Theater.

Brattleboro Area Hospice
191 Canal Street
Brattleboro, VT 05301
Return Service Requested

U.S. Postage Paid
Non-Profit Org.
BRATTLEBORO, VT
05301
PERMIT NO. 109