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JAMAICA SERVICE PROGRAM FOR OLDER ADULTS, INC.

162-04 Jamaica Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11432 - 718-657-6500

"a total community working together to serve the elderly...since 1972"

Winter 2007

Volume 8 Issue 2

JSPOA 's ANNUAL GALA "SUPPORTING SENIOR HEALTH"

Close to 300 friends and supporters celebrated JSPOA's most successful Annual Gala ever, *Supporting Senior Health*, on September 21st at Russo's On The Bay. The evening began with cocktails in a beautiful setting overlooking the Bay and proceeded to the program where Health Care Professionals were honored for their outstanding contributions in the field of Senior Health Care.

The honorees were: **Judith Dicker**, Executive Director, Hillside Manor Health Care Services, **Antonio Martin**, Executive Director, Queens Hospital Center, **Clifford Feiner, M.D.**, Geriatric Specialist, Queens Hospital Center, **Bruce Flanz**, Executive VP & COO, Jamaica Hospital Medical Center, **Andrew Rubin, M.D.**, Podiatrist, Jamaica Hospital Medical Center, **Michael Gordon, M.D.**, Chairperson of Behavioral Health Services, Mary Immaculate Hospital, **Patti S. Klein,**



Front Row: Queens Borough President Helen Marshall, Ann Wilkinson, Judith Dicker, Dr. Patti Klein, Dr. Michael Gordon, Sarah Gnecco, Antonio Martin, Carol Hunt and Marcia Gibson. Back row: Dr. Andrew Rubin, Bruce Flanz, Dr. Clifford Feiner, Councilman David Weprin and Councilman Leroy Comrie.

D.O., Psychiatry, Mary Immaculate Hospital and **Sarah Gnecco, RN**, Mary Immaculate Hospital.

JSPOA's Executive Director, Carol Hunt explained, "JSPOA is honored to salute these exceptional health care professionals and their organizations, which have collaborated with us for more than 30 years. Each organization

has consistently shared their resources and professional staff to enhance the quality of health care for senior citizens, from the well elderly to the mentally frail." JSPOA thanks corporate supporters Bloomberg LP, Carver Federal Savings Bank, Emigrant Savings Bank, Greater Jamaica Development Corp., Jamaica Hospital Medical Center and Trump Pavilion, Hillside Manor Health Care Services, Pathmark, The Pickman Foundation, Queens Hospital Medical Center, Royal Health Care, Visiting Nurse Service.

Adding to the zest of the evening, was a silent auction with contributions from Jet Blue Airways, Holiday Inn at JFK, the New York Jets, Midtown Office Supply, Carol Hunt, Bailey Jackson, Marion Webber and the Rochdale Quilters, Wanda Roldan and Lewis Palzer.

Funds raised from the Gala are used to enhance senior services and programs at JSPOA. ■



Guests enjoying cocktail hour overlooking the water at Russo's On The Bay.

NEWSLETTER



*From the
Executive
Director:*

Carol J. Hunt

Welcome to our 35th Year!

Officially in October of 2007 JSPOA will be 35 years old!

What a proud and distinguished history we have. The "We" includes first and foremost older adults themselves, community activists, initial board members, the founder, early staff members and the countless numbers of each of them as the years have rolled by.

Why do we love thee, Oh, JSPOA, let us count the ways?

We love thee because you let us speak our mind.

We love thee because you let us live productively in our homes for as long as possible.

We love thee because you bring us together with other individuals and groups that want to work together on our behalf.

We love thee because you keep us safe.

We love thee because we can choose to work, volunteer or do absolutely nothing.

We love thee because you educate us to be proactive in diet and other health related areas.

We love thee because you assist us in finding everything that is available for us to have a grand quality of life.

We love thee because no matter our disability there is a place for us to come and grow and make friends.

We love thee because when we need a ride we have a ride.

We love thee because we have found a home away from home.

We love thee because you are there and have been there. It seems like always.

We love thee because you do not forget those who must stay at home.

We love thee because you bring us our meals.

We love thee because you do not forget caregivers.

We love thee because you have vision.

We love thee because you are innovative.

We love thee because you deliver service with excellence.

We love thee because you are dedicated to meeting our needs.

We love thee for the friendships we have made.

We love thee for remembering us.

We love thee for travels near and far.

We love thee as we develop skills in cyberspace.

We love thee for honoring our past and bringing joy to each day.

We love thee for bringing comfort in times of loss.

We love thee for the fun we have.

We love thee for bingo.

We love thee for music.

We love thee for fashion shows.

We love thee for projects with children and teens.

We love thee for teaching us to be advocates.

We love thee for making our last years bright.

We love thee for leadership opportunities.

We love thee for family like holiday celebrations.

We love thee for fighting for us to live with dignity.

We love thee because you love us! ■

Thank You To Our Many Recent Donors

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JSPOA Newsletter

A Regular Publication of the

Jamaica Service Program for Older Adults, Inc.
162-04 Jamaica Ave., Jamaica, NY 11432
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Ann Wilkinson
Chairperson

Marcia Gibson
President

Carol J. Hunt
Executive Director

Volunteers Deliver Holiday Meals To Jamaica's Homebound Seniors!



Volunteers package Christmas dinner to bring to homebound seniors in Southeast Queens.



Volunteers Eric Scholnick and Al Nevin.

Thirty-four volunteers helped Jamaica Service Program for Older Adults provide close to 100 meals for homebound seniors in Southeast Queens on Christmas. For some seniors, the volunteers delivering the meal and holiday spirit were the only person they saw on the holiday.

Volunteers ranged in age from 14-70 years old and included people meeting JSPOA for the first time to staff and board members. They came from all over, including Queens, Westchester and Manhattan. Parents said they brought their children because they wanted them to see that there is more to Christmas than gifts under the tree. Others came because they wanted give to others on the holiday.

Christmas carols were playing, and holiday spirit and camaraderie filled the room as volunteers packaged hot meals, highlighted by Cornish hens, for the seniors. The volunteers brought that same spirit to the homes of seniors, to bring them joy and good food as they delivered the holiday meal.

Mary Duhaime was one of those seniors. "I was so grateful for the meal I received on Christmas day. I recently lost my husband and it meant so much to me that the two volunteers who came to my door, had taken time out of their holiday to deliver my meal and to spend a few minutes with me. I am so thankful."

Brenda Rivera, who volunteered to deliver the meals, loved the ex-

perience. "It was so much fun to meet with the seniors, they were so happy to see us and they brought a smile to my face. I really enjoyed spending Christmas morning with them and I'm looking forward to coming back again next year."

Carol Hunt, JSPOA's Executive Director observes, "In this season of giving, individuals who give of their time, talent and treasure extend the true meaning of JSPOA's motto of 'a total community working together to serve its elderly'. Given the opportunity, our agency always brings the best in the spirit of service and giving to older adults and those who volunteer. Many, many thanks to staff leaders, board members, community friends and volunteers near and far."

JSPOA's "Centers of Attention"

Rockaway Boulevard Senior Center celebrated their 36th anniversary with three days of special activities and performances. The celebration "70's, Then and Now" included performances by the Drama Group, the Rockaway Review and the Rockaway Pearls. Seniors came dressed in a 70's theme, a 70's time line was constructed and one entire wall covered the history of Disco as 70's music played

throughout the celebration.

Also celebrating an anniversary was the **Theodora G. Jackson Adult Center**, in it's 34th year of service to the community. The theme was "Celebrating Our Golden Years." There was a special program which included guest speakers, live music and dancing. The Center starts its new computer class beginning in February. For more information on the classes, please

contact the Program Office at 718-657-6581.

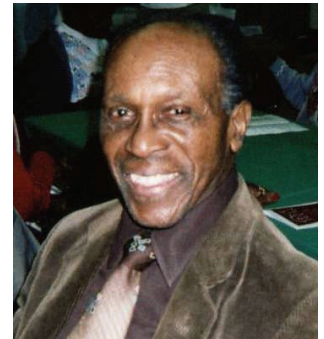
The seniors of **South Jamaica Senior Center** went on a holiday trip to the Hunderton Hills Playhouse in Hampton, New Jersey for dinner and *A Playhouse Christmas 2006*. Multi-talented performers performed with cheer traditional carols - classic and contemporary, Yuletide compositions and holly-jolly dance numbers in the original annual holiday songfest. ■

JSPOA's HOLIDAY PARTY FOR THE HOMEBOUND

The buzz around JSPOA's holiday party for homebound seniors on December 20th was still being heard days after the event ! Clients called in to thank JSPOA for the lovely day they spent in the company of other homebound seniors at the Theodora G. Jackson Adult Center.

The party, underwritten by Citymeals on Wheels, was for seniors who don't often get out of their homes. It had that catered rental hall feel to it as they entered through the doors and enjoyed a variety of performances. Two York College students, Alexia Rose and Manuel Gonzalez, performed skits that spoke to the "trials and tribulations" of receiving homebound services. The audience roared when the Gonzalez, who played the role of a homebound senior, had fallen asleep and grown a beard during the very lengthy homebound assessment process. The guests said they loved the skits because they could relate to the issues.

Some seniors exchanged telephone numbers, while discussions revealed that some shared common histories and acquaintances. They thanked their case managers for getting them out of their homes and announced that they are looking forward to the next opportunity to come together in a spirit of joy and sharing. ■



Top: Mildred Dunkley, Mattie Cogger, Madeline DeMarco and Ms. Young. Bottom : Dorothy Greene and Conrad Govine.

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