



2012 Staff Reporter

January • February • March April ★ May ★ June July • August • September • October • November • December



Creative Expressions Art Show a Success!



Trio: Congratulations to **Amy Devendorf** for all her hard work as the instructor for the **Liberty Through the Arts** program and for being the driving force behind the art show. Her passion and dedication was evident in the breathtaking art on display and was reflected in the number of participants.

Left to right: **Amy Devendorf**, **Brianna Theabold** and **Mike Decker, CEO**.

Left: **Joey Then** beams with pride as he receives the People's Choice Award. His painting, *Poppies*, was a crowd pleaser.

Creative Expressions, the first art show sponsored by Liberty, showcased artwork created by individuals in its successful Liberty Through the Arts programs.

Fifteen other ARCs throughout the state contributed more than 50 pieces of artwork. The two-day show culminated on a Saturday in May with a free public viewing at the Century Club, Amsterdam (exhibit installation photographs above and to the right). ■



Staff Volunteers Assist at Foundation Golf Tournament

Liberty Foundation's 18th Annual Golf Tournament

Our Tournament was, once again, a success, in large part due to our hardworking, dedicated volunteers. Approximately 40 staff members ensured that golfers had an unforgettable time. Liberty volunteers are the cornerstone of this premier sporting experience. Thanks to all! ■

Hardworking golf volunteers, clockwise, from upper left:

- **Diana Mack** and **Joan Silvernail** are flooded with 50/50 tickets. The raffle raised \$370.
- Event Coordinator **Lisa Augustine** greets golfers.
- **Melissa Lasher** and former employee **Kathy Fonda**, a long-time golf volunteer, head out to the course.
- **Mike Decker**, **Roxanne Vecchio**, **Liz Decker**, and **Kathy Foster** fired up the grill and served mouthwatering hamburgers, hot dogs, and sausages.
- **Dorothy Danaher** is ready to sell chances for Mets tickets.
- **Beth Francisco** stays busy at the registration table.

112 golfers joined us to show their support.



A newsletter for, by, and about Liberty Employees. Liberty • 43 Liberty Drive • Amsterdam, NY 12010 • 518.842.5080

www.libertyarc.org

Safety Corner

Sun Protection

By Heather Vecchio and Jesse Markes

To enjoy your outdoor activities, please remember to protect your skin from the sun.

■ Do Not Burn or Tan

Avoid intentional tanning

Avoid tanning beds

Ultraviolet light from the sun and tanning beds causes skin cancer and wrinkling

■ Seek Shade

When the sun's rays are the strongest between 10 AM and 4 PM

■ Wear Protective Clothing

Long-sleeved shirt and pants

A wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses

■ Apply Sunscreen Generously

Use a broad spectrum sunscreen with Sun Protection Factor (SPF) 30 or higher for protection from ultraviolet A (UVA) and ultraviolet B (UVB) radiation.

Apply 15 minutes before going outdoors and reapply every two hours.

■ Use Extra Caution Near Water, Snow, and Sand

These surfaces reflect the damaging rays of the sun, which can increase your chance of sunburn.

■ Get Vitamin D Safely

Through a healthy diet

Take vitamin supplements

Early detection of melanoma can save your life. Carefully examine all of your skin once a month. A new or changing spot should be evaluated.

For more information go to www.skincancerprevention.org. ■



Heather Vecchio
Safety Manager



Jesse Markes
Committee Chair



From the Help Desk to Your Desk

Your Electronic John Hancock

How to setup an email signature line

Did you know that you can have your name and contact information printed at the bottom of each message you send out? Did you know that you can use different signatures based on who the email is being sent to? You can give this a try by opening Outlook, clicking on Tools, Options, and the Signatures button to get started. You can even email yourself your first email to review how your new signature appears in your message. If you have questions, please contact me at extension 3285. ■



Pauline Kretzer
IT Support Desk

Sales and Marketing NEWS



Liberty's manufacturing division recently completed a large order for the Office of Emergency Management in New York City for just under 1,000 cases of individually-wrapped Purell

Hand Sanitizing Wipes. Each case contained 10 cartons packed with 100 wipes. The entire job required 15 employees working to fulfill the order within two weeks. Tasks included; assembly, scaling, labeling, and packaging. This product will be available to any state agency in the state within the next couple of months.

As we continue to sell commodity products to New York State through NYSID, Liberty is also fulfilling contract packaging for private customers. The latest includes Aviation Cleaning Supply Inc. Liberty will be mixing, filling, labeling, and packaging a leather seat cleaner for the commercial airlines market. The product has received a Safety Certification from The Boeing Company. Anticipated manufactured volume could reach 500 gallons per day.

Trade shows and conferences help us to market and sell our products to prospective customers and allow us to network with our current customers and educate them about the Liberty Enterprises mission. A couple of the trade shows we have attended this year include NYS Association of Municipal Purchasing Officials and the NYC Parks 24th Annual Vehicle & Equipment Show. ■



Above: Marisol Pietri and Bob Grey have a good time as they weigh and sort Purell wipes.

Below: Charlie Strum works diligently to fulfill the Purell job in the Liberty workshop.



Mickey LaCoppola at ANCOR

Lindbergh House Assistant Manager **Michael LaCoppola**, recently had the honor of being chosen to represent Liberty at the 2012 Annual ANCOR Convention in Washington D.C. The conference, titled "Leading Cultures of Innovation and Advocacy," was aimed at giving professionals who work with the disabled "the tools and solutions needed to create and lead innovative organizations and shape the future of these organizations and the individuals they serve."



Mickey LaCoppola

Mickey attended numerous sessions, from which he took volumes of information. "I would be glad to share my experiences anytime with anyone," he said. "I'm proud to have been an ambassador for Liberty." Mickey has been with Liberty for 22 years, serving in numerous roles throughout the years, beginning as a DSP at Bullshead. He has been at Lindbergh for nine years. ■

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Sue Jones

**Employee of
the Month**



Sue Jones (Community Connections/OPTS) demonstrates the Liberty pillar of quality by going above and beyond in providing service and support.

At a recent ISP meeting, Sue went out of her way to add personal touches, which added a celebratory air and turned the meeting into a very meaningful and powerful experience.

Sue is a team player, a great leader, and willingly shares her talents and landscape expertise with colleagues. Every day, through everything she does, Sue demonstrates love and compassion for the individuals she supports. It's with much pride that we recognize her achievements. Congratulations, Sue! ♦



LIBERTY Montgomery County ARC 518.842.5080

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Trash 'n' Treasures

• **FOR SALE:** Lots of craft items; Lace, buttons, beads, wooden pegs, silk flowers, glass stones & much more! An array to please any crafters supply needs. Some items are new, some have been slightly used. Price is negotiable. Contact Pauline: paulinek@libertyarc.org or by phone at 954-3272.

• **FOR SALE:** 22Ft. 1996 Prowler Trailer. This trailer is in excellent condition and sports an awning. \$3500 or best offer. Pictures are available via email. Contact Karen: karens@libertyarc.org or by phone at 954-3239.



Save the Date!

Liberty COOL Follies
October 13, 2012, 2 PM
Amsterdam High School



First time blood donor, **Renee Sapia**, Bullshead Manager, is excited about having the opportunity to make a difference by giving. A special thank to **Chester Bubniak** for organizing the Red Cross Blood Drive.



In recognition of Better Speech and Hearing Month, Liberty's Speech Department hosted interactive activities throughout May. The had a sign-of-the-day. Staff had to properly demonstrate the sign to a department member, solve a sign puzzle, and complete a Speech Sudoku.

Patty Reksc
(Supervising SLP)

Kim Newkirk
(AHS 2)

Personnel Personals

■ Births

Janet Czeski (Liberty RN) welcomed a grandson, Tanner Charles Leone (8 lbs. 1oz.), on February 13

Brittni Sauve (a DSP at our Carlisle House) welcomed her granddaughter, Laylah Mare-Lynn (6 lbs. 6 oz.), on April 30

Beth Sansig (Residential) and her husband Damon Sansig, welcomed a son, Deegan Marcel Sansig (6 lbs. 15 oz.), on March 28

Tricia Smith (FSM) and her husband Ian Smith, welcomed a daughter, Madison Avery Smith (8 lbs. 6 oz. /20"), on April 30

■ Marriage

Leo Rouse (Residential) and Julie Rouse were married on February 25. We all wish you the best!

■ Anniversaries

Joe Quigley (Family Support DSP) and his wife Patti will celebrate 11 years of marriage on July 7. Congratulations!

Michael La Coppola (Lindberg House Assistant Manager) and his wife Barbara celebrated 21 years of marriage on June 15. Best wishes for many more!

■ More

Kara Reed (Assistant Manager at Wesleyan Ave.) celebrated her son Jacob's graduation From 5th grade to middle school! Congratulations and good luck, Jacob.

■ Staff Announcement

Adam Fetterly was recently promoted to the position of Program Manager of Stewart St., 208 Church St., and Inman Center. This position will be located in Amsterdam Region 2. Adam worked as a DSP for many years and most recently held the role of Family Support Services Manager. Congratulations, Adam!



Deb Oliver (Residential RN), right, happily pays for her purchases at the May Book Fair held in the Day Hab. Cafeteria where many books and gifts were for sale.

Benefits Corner



Effective 7/1/2012, CDPHP has become the agency's medical plan carrier. The plan year will now run from July 1 through June 30. CDPHP is a community rated HMO plan—meaning you will now have office and prescription co-pays at time of service instead of a high deductible to meet.

As in the past, with CDPHP you are limited to doctors within the CDPHP coverage network, primarily central NY region, but you will not need referrals to see an in-network doctor other than your primary.

Monthly premium costs for staff will remain at their current monthly rates of \$25 for single coverage, \$105 for 2 person coverage, and \$125 for family coverage.

The Smoking/Tobacco use surcharge also went in to affect on July 1. (additional \$35 per smoker for those staff and spouses who either admitted to being a tobacco user or neglected to turn in a completed affidavit form.)

Those staff who still have an HRA1 or FSA balance will be able to use those funds to pay co-pay charges. The \$500 single, \$750 2 person, or \$1000 family out-of-pocket responsibility will continue to need to be met between the dates of 2/1/2012–1/31/2013. Once this out-of-pocket responsibility is met, Liberty will reimburse staff for any additional expenses through 1/31/2013, provided you see a CDPHP in-network provider.

The Excellus' Healthy Reward Program will cease as of 6/30/2012. Unless you request it prior to 6/30/2012, any earned balances will be paid out to staff by Excellus automatically when the plan closes out. CDPHP offers a program called LIFE POINTS which is very similar to Excellus' Healthy Rewards. It offers up to \$365 in gift cards on a calendar basis, to those staff who participate in the program.

If you have any questions on the new CDPHP plan or the close out of Excellus related items, contact Diana Mack at ext 3288. ■

Events Calendar

- July 1 CDPHP becomes Liberty's Medical Plan carrier
- July 25 Staff Chicken BBQ ~ Amsterdam 3:30–6 PM • DS Cafeteria
- Aug 9 Staff Chicken BBQ ~ Ft. Plain 3–5 PM • Wiles Park

MaryAnn Metz's Cancer Walk

On June 2, Liberty's own MaryAnn Metz took part in Schoharie County's "Marathon for a Better Life." MaryAnn asked co-workers for pledges and raised \$100 to benefit cancer research.

MaryAnn walked with a team of eight on the Cobleskill College Campus that included two cancer survivors! She was also accompanied by her grandchildren; three-year-old Trevor completed a lap and five-year-old Rosie power-walked for three laps. MaryAnn said, "I was surprised and pleased to see a very large group of teens and small children walking. A motorcycle group did a drive-by escorted by the campus police. They had a DJ and a band, so there was constant music and quite a few people would break off walking to dance! It was quite an experience. Thank you, again, for your support." ■

Making Community Connections

As part of Liberty's commitment to making connections and helping the local community, staff and individuals embarked on a beautification project with Amsterdam Municipal Golf Course on a sunny day in June. The course was flooded with more than 30 volunteers who worked closely with the course grounds crew to complete landscaping goals. Inspired by the popular DIY TV show *Turf Wars*, teams worked against the clock, competing for prizes. Thanks to everyone's efforts, the project was a complete success.

A BIG thank you to the following volunteers: Mike Bucciferro, Sue Bilili, John Glode, Eric Ball, Wayne Nellis, Joe Javarone, Roslita Lilley, Shirley Pettingill, Kristen Motyl, Sue Jones, Georgeann Brammer, Maurita Smith, Courtney Downing, John DiMezza, and the winning team, pictured below. ■



Grand Prize Winners, left to right: Bill Sikora, Sergio Muniz, Moises Castro, Shane Shaut, and Chad Hartwick.

Adam Fish to Serve in Navy

Liberty's own **Adam Fish** will be upholding the Navy's motto, "Not for self but for Country," when he starts active duty training on July 6 in Gulfport, MS. Adam will then be deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for Operation New Dawn. Adam enlisted in 2007 as a Navy Reserve Seabee. He was deployed 2008–09 to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom. He will be tasked as a detachment project supervisor.

Adam has been with Liberty since October, 2010, and currently serves as Project Development Manager in the Facility and Maintenance Department.

Adam says it was an easy decision to enlist "in order to serve his country" and he has experienced "building relationships with people all over the world" and "developed life-long bonds with fellow battalion service members." Adam wanted to relay the following: "I would like to thank the Facilities department, HR, my wife Kayla, and anybody else who has helped me to make this difficult transition possible. I will miss everybody here at Liberty and especially miss my little girl Lillian."

All of us at Liberty wish Adam and his family the best and thank him for his selfless service! ■

Navy Trivia... Did you know?

The U.S. Navy is the largest navy in the world, with a battle fleet tonnage that is greater than that of the next 13 largest navies combined! The U.S. Navy also has the world's largest carrier fleet, with 286 deployable battle force ships. The service has 321,053 personnel on active duty and 105,957 in the Navy Reserve (this includes Adam!) as of June, 2012.



Adam with his wife Kayla and daughter Lillian