

AMSTERDAM

Liberty ARC staff recognized for employment anniversaries

Liberty ARC held their annual Employee Recognition Dinner in November, recognizing 129 employees who have achieved significant employment milestones with the agency.

During the dinner at Glen Sanders Mansion in Scotia, honorees were recognized who achieved five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, and 40-years of service – with the group totaling an impressive 1,740 cumulative years of employment with Liberty ARC.

“Liberty ARC’s Employment Recognition Dinner is one of my favorite nights of the year as we get to celebrate our employees’ longevity with the agency and their milestone anniversaries,” said Liberty ARC CEO Jennifer Saunders in a news release. “We are so proud of this fantastic group of staff members, who are true examples of commitment to Liberty ARC’s mission and values. Congratulations to our milestone employees!”

Deborah Hardy, an Assistant Hab Specialist I, and Residential Manager Nora Pavlak are both celebrating 40 years of employment with Liberty ARC. Deborah is a pivotal team member of the day habilitation programs where she acts as a staff lead and a wealth of knowledge who is always there to help her co-workers with her many years of history with Liberty ARC.

Nora and her extensive experience and deep understanding of Liberty ARC have made her an asset to the organization and an inspiration to other managers. As a manager, Nora fosters a supportive team environment that inspires those around her.

Gail Maloney, Deborah Pac, Patricia Payne, and Catherine Unislawski received 35-year recognition. Gail and Patricia worked in Liberty ARC’s Residential Department, supporting and caring for people with disabilities on a day to day basis. Gail, who will be retiring in November, is an Assistant Manager Live In, and Patricia is a Direct Support Awake Night. Deborah is a part of the Transportation Department as a Bus Driver, while Catherine Unislawski has worked in the Human Resources Department as the Assistant for the entire 35 years she has been with Liberty ARC.

Other acknowledgements of the evening:

Thirty years of recognition awards were given to Custodian Shawn Carr, Direct Support Professional Timothy Clark; Assistant Director of Clinical Services Jill LaFlamme; Behavior Specialist David Limbrunner; Direct Support Awake Night Dayne Peck; Day Hab Direct Support Professional Edmund Shufelt; and Director of Facilities Management Dennis Yacobucci.

Twenty-five years of recognition awards were given



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Above: Pictured from left to right is Human Resources Department Assistant Cathy Unislawski, Assistant Manager Live In Gail Maloney, Bus Driver Deborah Pac, and Direct Support Awake Night Patricia Payne, who have each been employed with Liberty ARC for 35 years. **Below:** Liberty ARC held their annual Employee Recognition Dinner in November at Glen Sanders Mansion in Scotia.



to Director of Employment Services and Industrial Operations Erin Abele; Custodial Supervisor Vincent Deshane; Residential Manager Debby Figueroa; Residential Registered Nurse Sharon Haile; Staff Training Assistant Melissa Lasher; Receptionist Mary Leip; Senior Habilitation Coordinator Melissa Montanye; Day Hab Direct Support Professional David Salvagni; Public Relations Administrative Assistant Beverly Salvo; Senior Habitation Coordinator Rebekah Schuyler; Assistant Manager Robert Spraker Jr.; Physical Therapist Linda Stump; Residential Manager Andrew Sweet; and Assistant Manager Susan Woodcock.

Twenty years of recognition awards were given to: Elena Booth, April Buboltz, Holly Davis, Pamela Delano, Deborah Ham, Melissa Jonker, Lisa Klim, Marie McLean-Blackwood, Renea Pacheco, Molly Serafini, Re-

becca Smith, Sarah Snell, and Pamela Wadsworth.

Fifteen years of service awards were given to: Sue Bryant, Trevor Cline, Edward Delgado, Amy Devendorf, Christine Ferris, Sherri Ford, Jenny Hart, Jennifer Place, Yola Richardson, Laura Seredensky, Tricia Smith, Amy Stearns, Lisa Thatcher, and Kenneth Thomas. Ten years of service awards were given to: Brett Bellinger, Brooke Booth, Patricia DiScenza, Jessica Ferguson, Julian Fitzgerald-Chisholm, Karissa Fitzgerald, Casey Graham, Oleta Haynes, Erin Ilagan,

Tammi Kane, r LyRissa Mento, Kevin Parks Brandi Prall, Davendra Ramharak, Demetria Rios, Frank Rivera Jr., Lolalynn Robinson Maggie Rodriguez, Amy Sanchez, Paula Szabo, I Shante Vaughn, Michael Vooyes, Adobi Woods.

Five years of service awards were given to: Neil Amyan, Samantha Anthony, Austin

Barnes Sandra Becker, Mackenzie Bennett, Mark Bentz, Sheena Blackwood, Kimberly Boles, Antonette Bracchi Mark Brice, Elizabeth Bridge, Magalinnda Clavien, Nikol Casanova, Ashley Chapman, Rafael Curbelo, Peter DuFault, Theodore Elliot, Michael Freeman, Amanda Gatto, Nicole Gifford, Aaliyah Goodson, Matthew Gordon, Jeremy Hotaling, Markie Hugo, Brianne Jennings-Skottke, Jennifer Jessop, Destiny Julien, Robert Kilmer, Michael Knoll, Meghan LaPort, Idalis Lara, JoAnn Logan, Nathan Mandsager, Melanie Margeson, Jesse Markes, Michael May, Benjamin Martin, Rayshona McClaney, Gardy Milor, Jennifer Nichols, Derrick Perry, Kimberly Rickard, Kanika Rozier, Aubrey Smith, Allison Snell, Pablo Torres, Summer VanNostrand, Jimacie Vasquez, Brandon Warner, Cory White, Julia Woodard, and Robert Yesse.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Pictured is Residential Manager Nora Pavlak, who has been employed with Liberty ARC for 40 years.

The Library Connection
Amsterdam Free Library
 28 Church Street, Amsterdam, NY • 842-1080

December 2024

Season’s Greetings
 from the Amsterdam Free Library!

Please be advised that construction continues on our beautiful building. The main entrance, parking lot handicap entrance, and elevator are currently unavailable due to work in front of the building until further notice. Patrons can enter on the north side of the building (facing Route 5/the firehouse,) through either the stairwell door or the reopened main floor handicap entrance. Curbside services are available, including borrowing, printing, and faxing, for those who need it. Please call the front desk at 518-842-1080 to notify staff that you will need curbside assistance. Additional resources can be discussed on a patron-by-patron basis. We understand that parking is a challenge; and would like to remind patrons that there is additional parking available across the street at Riverfront Center.

The Annual Basket Raffle has begun! Stop by the library or check our Facebook or website for detailed basket pictures and descriptions, and to purchase raffle tickets. Tickets are \$10 for a sheet of 26. Winners will be drawn December 16th, just in time for holiday gift giving. Special thanks to our generous donors: Amsterdam Riverfront Hardware, Anthony’s Deli and Market, Autozone Autoparts of Amsterdam, the Friends of the Amsterdam Free Library, Wolf’s Hollow Brewing Company, and the staff members and families of the Amsterdam Free Library.

Looking for a great winter read? The Amsterdam Reads has selected the Little Liar by Mitch Albom as the 2025 community Book of the Year. Copies of the book are available at the library today, and a season opening event is scheduled for January 26th.

There’s lots of great programming coming your way. Join our Assistant Director Leah for a Mini Book Ornament Adult Craft Group on December 12. Please call the front desk to pre-register and provide your top 5 to-be-read list! MiniMakers Story Hour continues on Thursdays at 10:30, offering stories, music, movement, crafts and STEM to preschoolers. Special holiday Story Hours will be held on Monday December 23 at 10:30 (featuring the Nutcracker) and December 30 at 11 (a Noon Year’s Party!) A sock snowman craft will be available by registration only on December 26th, please call the front desk for more information. A LEGO build challenge will be held from 10-4 on December 27th. Kids and adult D&D Groups will meet December 15 and 29, with teens meeting on the 22nd. Knit and Crochet Social Group continues to meet Wednesday afternoons, and Fiber Arts Group meets on Saturdays, offering like-minded artisans a chance to work on projects together and swap tips and tricks. Our self-paced Web Development class is offered every Thursday evening.

The Amsterdam Free Library will be CLOSED December 25th for Christmas Day and January 1st for New Year’s Day. The library will also be open for reduced hours on the following days: December 20th 9-3 December 24th 9-1, and December 31 9-1. We wish all in our community a safe and happy holiday season.

As always, stop by the library to check out these great events and more, including our wide collection of materials and services, including books, audiobooks, graphic novels, magazines, movies, games, internet, computer access, printing and faxing. Using the Libby app, you can also access a collection of free online e-materials right from your phone or other smart device.

Questions, program ideas, or just looking for more information? Call us (518-842-1080) or check out our website (amsterdamlibrary.com)

AMSTERDAM

Holiday selections from Handel’s Messiah tradition scheduled to continue Sunday

Holiday selections from G.F. Handel’s Messiah will once again ring through Amsterdam’s St. Stanislaus Roman Catholic Church as the production returns for the third year following a decade long hiatus.

For more than 50 years, audiences gathered at St. Ann’s Episcopal Church in Amsterdam to hear a choir of community singers and soloists.

Since 2022, St. Stanislaus music director Alice Rogers has led the revival of this beloved Amsterdam tradition. In 2022 and 2023, the production was presented with a citation from New York State Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara, who was in attendance, along with Amsterdam’s Mayor Michael Cinquanti and Congressman Paul Tonko.

This year, Ms. Rogers and the parishioners of St. Stanislaus are especially excited to hear the work played on the newly renovated historic pipe organ, which has been revitalized to be a magnificent hybrid instrument while still retaining the use of the pipes which are over 100 years old. The choir, numbering approximately twenty five singers, has been rehearsing since early November.

Holiday selections from Handel’s Messiah will be performed on Sunday, December 15 at 5 p.m. at St. Stanislaus Church.

The production, under the direction of Alice Rogers, features organist and renowned composer Alfred Fedak. Soloists include Rose Hunsberger

soprano, Gabrielle San Romano, mezzo, Michael McCord, tenor, and Devin Canavally, baritone.

The production is made possible by the generous support of The Rotary Club of Amsterdam as well as St. Stan’s Holy Rosary Society and Holy Name Society. Additional support comes from the estate of Helen Podolec and the Dybas Family and St. Stan’s Rosary Society.

Admission is free, with a suggested free-will offering.

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