

IN THIS ISSUE



**PROACTIVE SERVICE**

FREE HIV SCREENINGS TO E.D. PATIENTS  
PAGE 3



**QUALITY WORK**  
HOSPITAL PHYSICIAN WINS LEADERSHIP AWARD  
PAGE 3

DECEMBER 2008



# UPDATE

THE NEWSLETTER FOR WATERBURY HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES & NETWORK AFFILIATES

## A Magical Evening

### Waterbury Hospital's Ninth Annual Gala Casts A Spell of Warmth and Elegance

Against a bewitching backdrop of purple, pink, silver and black, more than 560 exquisitely dressed guests filled the ballroom at the Holiday Inn Grand last month to raise their glasses and help raise funds for the Waterbury Hospital Surgical Services Department.

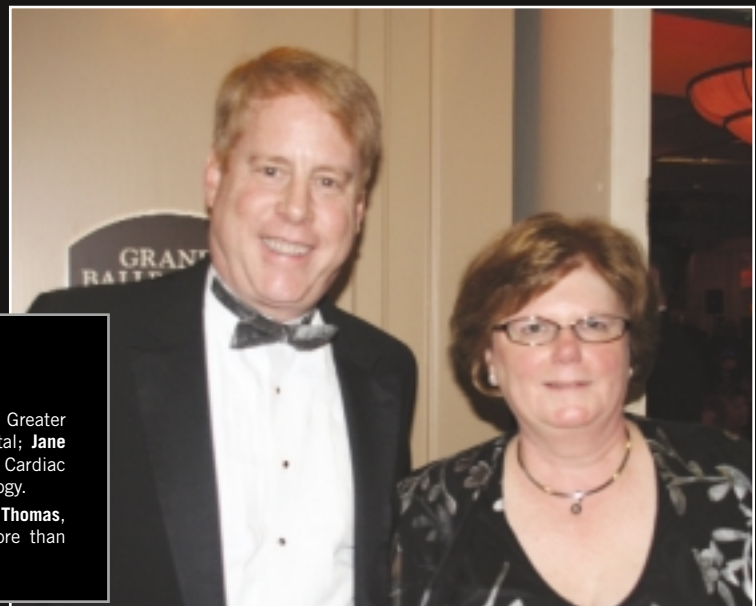
The hospital's Ninth Annual Charity Gala on November 15 was highlighted by a performance by noted illusionist **David Garrity**, who kept the crowd on its toes by frequently venturing into the audience to find someone to take part in one of his acts.

The magic extended through the rest of the evening as well, as guests mingled, dined and danced while also bidding on numerous items in both a silent auction and a live auction. By the end of the night, the Gala's organizers had raised more than \$60,000 to support the Surgical Services Department.

"We're very grateful to all those who were so generous to our cause," said **Ann Marie Thomas**, Administrative Director of the Surgical Services Department. **Scott Kurtzman, MD**, the Chairman of the Surgery Department, said the event went a long way in helping the department meet its goals.

"It's a tremendous testament to all those who support the hospital and the high level of care we provide," he said.

*Continued on page 2*



### A NIGHT OF ILLUSION

**TOP:** Women with Heart! **Loraine Shea**, Executive Director of the Heart Center of Greater Waterbury; **Lucy DaSilva, RN**, of the Cardiac Catheterization Lab at Waterbury Hospital; **Jane Mackinnon, RN**, of the Cardiovascular Unit at Waterbury Hospital; **Karen Miele, RN**, of the Cardiac Catheterization Lab; **Gina Spatafore, RN**, of the CVU; and **Kayann Wilson, RN**, of Cardiology.

**RIGHT:** **Scott Kurtzman, MD**, Chairman of Surgery at Waterbury Hospital, and **Ann Marie Thomas**, Administrative Director of the Department of Surgical Services. The gala raised more than \$60,000 to support the department.



# GALA 2008

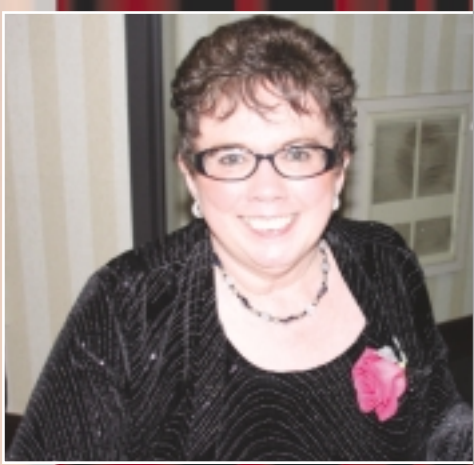
*Continued from page 1*

Another highlight was the annual presentation of Waterbury Hospital's Humanitarian of the Year. This year's recipient, **Vickie Luddy**, was recognized with a video that paid tribute to her 22 years of dedicated volunteer service to the hospital, including three years as president of the Hospital Auxiliary.

Surrounded by her family, she fought back tears as she accepted the award amidst a rousing round of applause.

Later, during the live auction, Dr. Kurtzman and fellow surgeon **Jonathan Hasson, MD**, sat in chairs set up to resemble seats in a limousine. In the front was the "driver," **Steve Jalowiec**, the hospital's Administrative Director of Facilities, and in the back row sat the **Rev. Richard Bollea**, the hospital's Coordinator of Pastoral Care and **Cyndi Lompert** of the hospital's Information Services Department. Up for bid was a dinner at Carmen Anthony's Steakhouse with limousine service to the restaurant.

As the evening wound down, guests took the dance floor, kicking up their heels until the midnight hour. 🏠



## A NIGHT OF ILLUSION

**Clockwise from top left:**

From left, **Heather Clinger**, Community Health Education Coordinator and Manager of Volunteer Services; **Vickie Luddy**, the 2008 Humanitarian of the Year; **Carol Melton**, former Coordinator for the Be Well Center; and the **Rev. Richard Bollea**, Pastoral Care Coordinator.

From left, **Carol Graziosa**, Administrative Assistant for the Emergency Department; **Nick Cascia**, a Waterbury photographer and reporter; **Cyndi Lompert** of Information Services; and **Janet Richardson, RN**, Assistant Emergency Department Nursing Director.

**Jean Russo**, Waterbury Hospital Public Relations Assistant and Evergreen Club Coordinator.



## Auxiliary Elects New Officers

Members of the Waterbury Hospital Auxiliary elected a new slate of officers for 2009 at its annual meeting last month. The new officers are, from left, **Mary Calvo, RN**, Vice President; **Christine Pease**, Recording Secretary; **Theresa Pagano**, Assistant Treasurer; **Donna Duncan**, Treasurer; and **Linda Osterman Hamid**, President. 🏠

# FREE HIV SCREENING PROGRAM in the Emergency Department




## Program is Among First of Its Kind in Connecticut

Patients in the Emergency Department at Waterbury Hospital are now being offered free HIV testing as part of an effort to identify people who are infected with the potentially deadly virus but are not aware of it.

The hospital is one of the first in the state to offer free HIV testing for Emergency Department patients. At a Dec. 1 press conference at the hospital held to kick off the program and mark World AIDS Day, **Steven Aronin, MD**, (left) the Medical Director of the hospital's Infectious Disease Clinic, said the testing process would be painless and convenient, with results available in 20 minutes.

**Christopher Michos, MD**, the Chairman of the Emergency Department, said he welcomed the chance to identify and treat those who are infected with HIV, which is the precursor for AIDS. He pointed out that there are about one million people in the U.S. who are infected with the disease, and roughly 25 percent of them are unaware of it. There are believed to be about 300 people in the Waterbury area who are infected with HIV but are not aware of it.

"All it will require is a swab test and patients can receive the peace of mind of knowing whether they have the disease or not," Dr. Michos said. Patients who receive results indicating they have acquired the disease will be referred for immediate treatment and counseling, he added. 


## Waterbury Hospital Physician Wins

# NATIONAL QUALITY AWARD

**Lydia Barakat, MD**, Director of Waterbury Hospital's Quality Management Program for HIV Care, has been given the National Quality Center's 2008 Leadership in Quality Award for her dedication to providing the best possible care to patients.

Barakat was recognized for her role in helping establish a first-of-its-kind HIV Quality Management Program at Waterbury Hospital, where she also works as an active clinician. Barakat worked with staff in the Infectious Diseases Clinic to institute a program that would ensure improved results for both physicians and patients, according to the National Quality Center, a national organization which aims to improve overall care for people infected with HIV or AIDS.


In particular, Barakat was recognized for helping open the lines of communication between physicians, case workers and patients, creating greater understanding of the importance for patients to keep up with their medications.

She was also praised for her leadership in reaching out to the community to provide education in HIV and AIDS prevention. 



## Steve Jalowiec Named ENGINEER OF THE YEAR

**Steve Jalowiec**, the Administrative Director for Facility Operations at Waterbury Hospital, has been named Engineer of the Year by the New England Healthcare Engineers Society. The award, now in its 11th year, is given out to healthcare facility managers who demonstrate outstanding leadership qualities and make significant contributions at the regional, state and community levels.

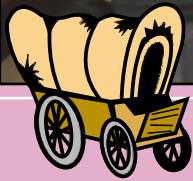
Jalowiec joined Waterbury Hospital in 2003. He is responsible for the hospital's Plant Engineering, Dietary and Environmental Services departments. He also oversees the hospital's regulatory compliance programs, including Environment of Care, OSHA, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Jalowiec has worked at several hospitals in a facility management capacity for more than 20 years. 





## Born To Be Wild

Waterbury Hospital Radiology Technicians **Denise Vicenzi**, left, and **Pamela Stanley**, right, pose with **Marco Verga, MD**, center, during the hospital's annual Halloween Costume Contest. The three dressed up as bikers for the contest, which featured more than a dozen contestants. The winner of the costume contest was **Liz Sanchez** of Food Services, who dressed up as Cleopatra. 🇺🇸



## WELCOME WAGON

Waterbury Hospital congratulates and welcomes the following new employees who joined the hospital in November and December:

**Dhurata Backa**  
**AnneMarie Beierle**  
**Linda M. Carrubba**  
**Jennifer Cizauskas**  
**Jewell P. Cody**  
**Jeffrey Dill**  
**Debra M. DiVenere**  
**Christine R. Dunbar**  
**Susan G. Goodson**  
**Yvonne M. Johnson**  
**Joann A. Oleynik**  
**Susan A. Pappas**  
**Laura A. Raymond**  
**Orville Samuels**  
**Mari Cherie Sperling**



## Early Gifts!

Twin boys came into the world very small and very light at Waterbury Hospital last month. The infants – **Davian Anthony Robles**, left, and **Leonardo Anthony Robles**, right – were delivered prematurely and weighed barely over two pounds each when they arrived on Nov. 24. But their prognosis so far is excellent, and they continue to gain weight while being monitored by **Diana Lippi, MD**, and **Joseph Tuggle, MD**, and the dedicated staff in the Special Care Nursery. 🇺🇸

## UPDATE

IS A PUBLICATION OF THE  
PUBLIC RELATIONS & MARKETING DEPARTMENT  
OF WATERBURY HOSPITAL

**MANAGING EDITOR: HEATHER TINDALL**  
**ASSISTANT EDITOR: MATT BURGARD**  
 SUBMIT ITEMS FOR UPDATE TO:  
[mburgard@wtbyhosp.org](mailto:mburgard@wtbyhosp.org)