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LAWRENCE**

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MARRIED LIFE



“SPRING TRAINING”

DINNER & DANCE



GINA MORRIS, RN

East End Disability Associates (EEDA) is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides supports and services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

EEDA's Mission Statement:
“Your Challenge... Our Commitment. Dedication to quality care for those with developmental disabilities on Eastern Long Island.”

WWW.EED-A.ORG



Actors Dmitri B. and Krystal T. take a bow during a standing ovation after opening night at The Gateway Playhouse.

YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE FRIENDS PARENTS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS MAKE SHOW A SUCCESS

By James K. Sisto, *Manager of Creative Arts Program*

On May 1st and May 3rd, East End Disability Associates raised the bar for over 900 audience members with their production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, changing what is typically expected from people of different abilities. From the opening number through the finale, the audience was in awe of the talent and dedication they saw throughout the show. Although the entire troupe did an outstanding job, the highlights were the leading and supporting roles that brought the house down. The audience will never forget Krystal T.'s scene when, as the notorious Mrs. Potifar, she flirts with Joseph. Other highlights were Alissa S. as Joseph, James G. as the Narrator, Susan G. as Gad, Nicholas H. as Judah, Glenn P. as Rueben, Dimitri B. as Potifar, and Matt S. with his terrific performance as the “Elvis-like” Pharoah. Andy B. and his cameo appearance as an Ishmaelite warmed the hearts of the entire audience. Marc R.'s growth as an actor was evident when he nailed his musical vocals as the Butler. Sunday evening ended with the presentation of the Directors Award of Excellence, an honor given to two actors who, in the eyes of CAP staff, have shown incredible growth over the past year. This year the awards were given to Kaitlyn H. who played two roles, as one of Jacob's wives and the other as the Baker, as well as Nicholas H., who wowed the audience with his performance as Judah and his rendition of “Benjamin Calypso.” Bravo to the entire troupe! *(continued on next page)*

Message from the Chief Executive Officer

Hello Friends,

I hope you enjoy the new format of our Newsletter. The goal is to provide more news, more often and more efficiently. EEDA stays current with industry standards and practices that increase our business knowledge and competitive edge. Today's business movements involve the incorporation of cultural competency, awareness and practice. The goal for EEDA is to provide services and supports in response to our constituents in an inclusive way, positively impacting them, their family and the community.

The lens through which I view EEDA is of a family comprised of many members with lots of talents and attributes. I think of EEDA as progressive, inclusive, and a model of continuous learning. At EEDA's recent employee forum, I learned that many share this view. EEDA's mission is to provide quality supports to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities on the East End of Long Island, a bucolic landscape that is home to people as different from each other as the grains of sand found on our beloved beaches. EEDA's response has been to accept and celebrate our differences and learn from one another. The capacity to develop relationships with individuals, families and communities is furthered when we focus on what's important to those we engage with, enlarging the lens and perspective through which we view others.

Sincerely,
Lisa Meyer Fertal



YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE FRIENDS *(continued from page 1)*

The production would not have been the mega-success it was without the time and dedication given to us by our staff, parent volunteers and community partners. The generosity and commitment of The Gateway Playhouse is priceless. Their staff and administration assure we have everything and everyone we need to achieve success. The costume design by Barbara Probeyahn was nothing short of miraculous. The twenty-plus outfits Barbara created were beautiful and professionally crafted. Linda Curate, a Senior Companion from OPWDD, worked furiously backstage as a dresser and very willingly played the back end of a camel to my front end in a scene for the show. Diana Hallock-Giffin, a dedicated parent, spent many hours backstage as a dresser and also took part in one of the dance numbers. Roy Probeyahn, parent extraordinaire, gave a great deal of his time acting as the vocal backup and lead prompter for the performances, ensuring our actors sounded their best and stayed on cue. Theresia Hand-Sanchez, a staff volunteer, assisted with makeup for the performances. Who would have thought, other than Elida Wilson, that 14 hazmat suits could become fourteen dancing cow costumes? Elida not only worked feverishly backstage, assisting with props and costume changes, she spent many hours drawing cow spots on the hazmat suits and creating udders, tails and horns. The costumes and dance number will never be forgotten by the audience. Last but not least, Frank and Roseann Forziano are recognized for their commitment and dedication to CAP. During the entire rehearsal process, Frank gave over 500 hours of expertise in drumming and music. Roseann gave us countless hours and days of rehearsal time and energy to help support the actors. She also was seen onstage performing as a wife, a cheerleader for Joseph and a handmaiden for the Pharaoh. On behalf at the EEDA's Creative Arts Program, I would like to personally thank all of our parent volunteers and community partners. We could never have done it without you!



**EEDA THANKS NEW YORK COMMUNITY BANK FOR
GENEROUSLY DONATING THE PRINTING OF THIS ISSUE**

EEDA EVENT CALENDAR

EEDA'S 2015 Summer Variety Show
Saturday, August 15th at 11am
Vail-Leavitt Music Hall, Riverhead

SURFERS HEALING:
Friday, September 18th
Ditch Plains Beach, Montauk

JOHN V. BELTRANI GOLF CLASSIC:
Monday, September 28th
The Baiting Hollow Golf Club



Michael M. enjoying his relaxing vacation in Upstate New York.

EEDA EMERGING SERVICES UPDATE **COMMUNITY PARTNER: FRIENDS OF L'ARCHE LONG ISLAND**

By Joy O'Shaughnessy, *Director of Emerging Services*



Friends of L'Arche Long Island (FLLI) is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization with a vision to establish L'Arche communities on the East End of Long Island. In 1964, a French Canadian, Jean Vanier, started an organization called L'Arche. L'Arche is the French word for The Ark (That Saved Humanity). He gave up a successful career to dedicate his life to the support of intellectually and developmentally disabled adults after he witnessed the appalling conditions in which these people were living at that time in France. In L'Arche Communities, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and those without, live and work together. All members of this unique community are welcomed, celebrated and encouraged to grow as human beings. Justice, compassion and faith are practiced in "the smallest acts of daily living." L'Arche communities are inter-denominational, albeit spiritual. FLLI's stated mission is to create "a happy, loving, respectful and spiritual community home environment to bridge the gap between people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and the local community." Doesn't this sound familiar?

About a year ago, EEDA initially responded to FLLI's dedicated Board of Directors who were looking for a space for ongoing meetings and we were eventually invited to join them and learn about this new organization. This is a difficult time in NY to get an ambitious project such as a L'Arche Community off the ground. No one knows better than our Executive Director, Lisa Meyer Fertal, how challenging it can be to develop a new agency. As we got to know one another, we learned EEDA and FLLI shared similar mission and values. Lisa has encouraged and supported us in exploring a community partnership and is lending EEDA's expertise to this project. I have been working as the liaison between the two organizations towards a goal of formalizing our affiliation with a working business agreement. We have also begun to explore some grant opportunities that can benefit both organizations.

Over the past year, FLLI and EEDA have been working together to plan the establishment of Long Island's first L'Arche community right here in Riverhead. The community may include four homes and a community center. In partnership with EEDA, L'Arche will begin to recruit people without disabilities, or "assistants," to live in the community. EEDA's role will be to act as the Fiscal Intermediary, to coordinate administrative operations and secure the funding streams available through the State of New York's Office for People with Developmental Disabilities. EEDA will be responsible for vetting and hiring "assistants." As EEDA employees, they will go through a requisite background check and receive comprehensive training.

EEDA Board member Mother Mary Garde, Lisa and I attended a FLLI one day retreat in March where we explored the L'Arche model in a deeper way, and we are scheduling a mixer for the summer months to bring the EEDA and FLLI communities together socially. To learn more about FLLI please visit their website at <http://www.friendsoflarcheli.org/>. Stay tuned.....

AN INTERVIEW WITH EEDA'S GINA MORRIS, RN

Gina has been a full-time nurse with EEDA since 2008. In that time, she has been an advocate, friend, counselor, supporter and trusted advisor. She has hosted parties, arranged special outings and attended celebrations. She has guided EEDA's precious loved ones through end-of-life care and has always put others first. Thank you, Gina, for all you do.



Gina Morris, R.N., during a visit to the Russell Street IRA.

What are the challenges providing nursing services to individuals living in IRA group homes?

Insurance and cost is something that should never factor into the care someone receives, but as we've seen the landscape change over the years, budgeting and the bottom line are more and more impacting the quality of care everyone receives. This couldn't be more evident than in the recent budget challenges faced by agencies that provide care to those with I/DD (intellectual and developmental disabilities). Another all too frequent example of this is when a practitioner orders a medication based on insurance coverage rather than what they feel would be the best medication for a particular condition. Also, the amount of time taken away from giving care to complete documentation can be challenging, and is another area that tends to be reimbursement and budget driven.

How do you think the NYS Rules and Regulations impact the individuals and programs?

I feel that added oversight is a great protection to those we serve; when it impedes care and/or delays timely treatment, however, it can be extremely frustrating. I've found over the years the rules and regulations lag behind in keeping up with emerging issues and technology. An example is the antiquated AMAP regulations; these were developed prior to current computer technology that changed the landscape of providing nursing care. I was so happy to hear an AMAP update is being currently developed.

How is this kind of nursing different than other nursing duties you have had?

My 10 years in emergency medicine at Peconic Bay Medical Center couldn't be more different than my current position here at EEDA, as well as my previous RN positions at both DDI & LIDC. In the ER, you have a brief, urgent interaction and the patient is not there your next shift; here, you form a long-term intimate relationship with those you serve. You get to know each other and develop close interpersonal relationships. When I took this position, I planned on remaining for a year or so, but fast-forward to 6 1/2 years later, and here I am. I still enjoy coming to work each day to be with our wonderful participants and incredible staff. I have worked many places in several states over the years and what we have here is a rare, special and unique workplace. I truly value everyone and I also feel valued. We work together to get the job done.

How has technology enhanced health care?

I've been an RN for 26 years now and the changes have been phenomenal; first with the introduction of faxes, later with computers and now cell phones. The speed, accuracy and efficiency at which information can be disseminated is remarkable. When I started nursing, everything was done via snail mail and you would wait for order changes and prescriptions at the whim of the postal service. Now, it's all done in real time. It's also an exciting time because there are new technological developments being explored every day that aid in patient care and result in better health outcomes.

What do you love least and most about your job?

What I dislike the most is the time all the paperwork takes away from actual caring for people.

What I love most is being with our individuals, spending time with them and seeing to all their healthcare needs. I enjoy helping them advocate for their healthcare rights and needs, implementing things that aid them in accessing, navigating and utilizing the healthcare community.

EEDA'S ROCK'N ROLL GALA

By Lynn Proietti, *Receptionist and Gala Volunteer*

On Friday, March 6, 2015 EEDA held its Annual Gala at Suffolk Theater in Riverhead. The theme was “Do You Want to Dance?” and CJ Ramone from the legendary rock and roll band “The Ramones” performed. He set the stage on fire with hits from “back in the day.” His son Liam participated in our After School Program when he was a toddler and most recently, at the age of 16, participated in “All the World’s a Stage,” an acting class that EEDA offers in collaboration with The Gateway Playhouse. CJ Ramone was awarded the EEDA Parent Advocacy Award. He gave a touching speech in which he gave special thanks to EEDA for supplying incredible individualized support to his son and family.



CJ Ramone rocking the 2015 EEDA Gala.

Christine B., a resident at Barnes Road IRA, was presented with the Devin L. Fertal Self Advocacy award for her exemplary leadership as president of the EEDA self advocacy group, The EEDA Thinkers. She was beyond surprised and elated to receive this award.

The dance floor was jumping with great music arranged by Nicole Bryant, EEDA’s Med Specialist. Everyone boogied the night away! There was a lovely display of Chinese and silent auction baskets. They were the object of everyone’s desire as shown by the amount of tickets that were sold. Many guests went home with several baskets and couldn’t be happier.

A special thanks to the Gala Committee, the majority of whom are parents of people EEDA supports. I also have to send a “shout out” to my fellow team of fabulous EEDA staff volunteers! The teamwork was outstanding and fostered the Rock ‘N Roll party atmosphere which was the goal for the event. A great time was had by all.



Christine B., recipient of the Devin L. Fertal Self-Advocacy award.

We invite you to check out our Gala 2015 eJournal, which can be easily accessed through the first page of our website www.eed-a.org.

PAUL & HAVA FORZIANO: MARRIED LIFE AT EEDA

By Matthew Kuriloff, *Manager of Development and Public Relations*



Paul and Hava at home in their apartment in Riverhead.

EEDA’s reputation as an innovative agency, willing to take risks to ensure that the people we support are given the life they are entitled to live, is exemplified by the story of Paul and Hava Forziano. Two years ago, when other agencies were unable and unwilling to support them as a married couple, EEDA welcomed them with open arms. They have since been living together in a supported apartment, attached to EEDA’s Eight Bells IRA located in Riverhead.

Paul and Hava welcomed me to their home on July 1st, the two year anniversary of their move to EEDA. The couple shared their thoughts on both married life and the support they receive from EEDA staff. “We are so very happy,” Paul stated, “and the staff have been so wonderful and supportive to us.” Hava said she most definitely agreed. The couple next gave me the grand tour of their beautiful apartment and showed me their wedding album. Here’s to many more years of marriage!

EEDA'S RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

By Laurel Weresnik, *Senior Residential Manager*



Andy B. enjoying the back deck at the Russell Street IRA

Greetings all from the residential department at EEDA. In the past year, many of our residential participants enjoyed going to Great Adventure, Winterclove, Radio City, Gateway Playhouse, monthly dances, local concerts and so much more. This past winter provided the challenge of seemingly endless snow! Our staff bravely drove through sleet, snow, ice and rain to get to work. I think many of our supervisory staff carried a permanent bag of extra clothes, as many of them spent quite a few overnights during these storms. A big thank you goes out to all of them, as well as the other program staff who helped during these storms. The commitment and teamwork of our dedicated staff did not go unnoticed!

We have seen some changes in our houses. We are pleased to welcome Mariela C. at Barnes Road and Russell M. and Patrick B. at Eight Bells. The renovations to expand the Corwin house are complete. Now Paul G. is finally able to live on one floor without the challenge of stairs. Corwin is now home to four happy men, under the leadership of Ronnie Meyers, who was recently promoted to Coordinator. Sadly, we all mourn the passing of Devin. He is thought of and missed every day!

We've had some other staff changes as well. Russell Street welcomes Shatia Parker as the new Sr. Direct Support Professional (Sr. DSP). She replaces Janice Kennedy who has taken a different position within the agency. Sr. DSP Cory Skiseng from Eight Bells has taken a position with maintenance. We are pleased to announce that Jessica Harrington and Hiran Gracia have both been promoted to Sr. DSPs as well. We thank both Janice and Cory for all they have done and wish them luck in their new positions.

Summer has finally arrived. This means our cabin fever is at an end and everyone is enjoying the sun and all the activities that the East End has to offer. Stay tuned for more fun and games!

REMEMBERING TANYA LAWRENCE

By Stephanie Greenberg, *Medicaid Service Coordinator*

Tragically, we lost a beloved member of the EEDA family this past winter. Tanya Lawrence came to us in 2011. Beginning at Calverton Day Habilitation, as a Direct Support Professional, Tanya left for a brief time to complete her Bachelor's degree at St. Joseph's College. She then returned to us as a Medicaid Service Coordinator after graduation.

In addition to her dedication to consumers at EEDA, Tanya was an exceptional mother and loved spending time with her family. Occasionally, she complained that her daughters, Danielle and Brandy, spent too much time playing video games... like most teenagers do. But when they wanted to go shopping or out to eat, Tanya would cancel her plans with coworkers and friends, just to spend time with her daughters.



Tanya Lawrence

Tanya was fun to be around. She had a positive outlook and could adapt to any situation. When confronted with a challenge, she rolled up her sleeves and met it head-on with a smile. These are some of her qualities that are fondly remembered. Tanya had a unique relationship with each individual and made them feel valued. She thoughtfully asked about their day and would inquire about their family, friends, pets, hobbies and interests.

Tanya's spirit was sweet and gentle. We will all remember her fondly and miss her deeply. We were blessed and honored to have had Tanya's presence in our lives.

"The song has ended, but the melody lingers on." - Irving Berlin

HAPPEEDAYS

NEWS FROM EEDA PROGRAMS WRITTEN BY PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS AND STAFF

“SPRING TRAINING” DINNER & DANCE

By Shoshannah Jacobs, *Recreation Therapist/Program Manager, et al.*

On Thursday, March 26, 2015 almost 125 individuals, staff, and friends of EEDA came together at the Rock Hill Country Club for our 6th annual formal dance, “Spring Training.” The theme this year was baseball’s Spring Training and celebrated the start of the Yankees and Mets seasons. The centerpieces included popcorn buckets, mini baseball batting helmets, bubblegum and mini baseballs. All had a great time dancing the night away.

Special thanks go out to Jim Murphy for the delicious food and his amazing staff for their great service as always. Dinner consisted of everyone’s favorite foods, including stuffed mushrooms, shrimp, chicken fingers, sausage and peppers, chicken Francese, steak fries, salad and even a carving station. Dessert was coffee, tea, and sweet pastries from Frank and Son in Mastic. Can’t wait to start planning next years! See you then!

Dmitri B. “I had fun with my friends dancing. The food was good. It was a late night, but I was happy I was there.”

Krystal T. “I had fun dancing with my friends. I loved everything we had to choose from for dinner.”

Nicholas D. “I liked to go to the bar and get my Pepsi. I had fun dancing with my friends. I had chicken parmesan for dinner, which was great.”

Erin B. “I had a good time. I had a blast with my sister. I’m thankful she came with me to the dance. I liked the food a whole lot.”

Steven B. “I liked the food. I had a great time dancing with my girlfriend, Ida. It was fun.”



Hiran Garcia, Sr. DSP, John G. and Crystal C.



Vicki Guillen, Sr. DSP, and Susan G.



Kaitlyn M. and Jacob C.

THE BRIDGEHAMPTON SENIOR CENTER

By Richard D., *Member of Bridgehampton Senior Center*

I can’t think of a nicer place for seniors, sixty or over, to go. You just can’t beat their meals. They’ve got a good variety of food. For three dollars, you can’t go wrong. A person would be surprised by the friends they make and the people they meet. There are always outings and events that you can sign up for. A good example of this was on April 23rd. The Town of Southampton held an event: A lecture at the Historical Society, and then lunch at La Parmagiana restaurant. There are three different centers someone can go to. One in Hampton Bays, one in Flanders, and one in Bridgehampton.



Your Challenge... Our Commitment

107 ROANOKE AVENUE
RIVERHEAD, NY 11901



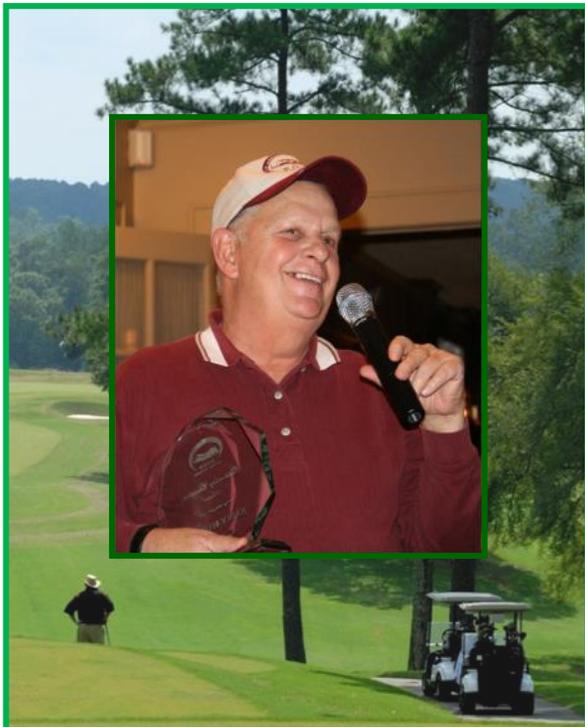
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Monday, September 28th, 2015



JOHN V. BELTRANI MEMORIAL

GOLF CLASSIC

CHAMPION, ADVOCATE, FRIEND



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