Wholeness of Life Awards Bring “Spirit” CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tion, surrounded by colleagues; and at The Chaplaincy’s “Gathering of Friends” benefit dinner at Cipriani 42nd Street.

Healthcare community reflects on spiritual value of its work

Several of The Chaplaincy’s trustees have remarked that the Wholeness of Life benefit is the most inspiring event they attend annually in the City. “Not only are the honorees moved by their much-deserved recognition, but their administrators are just beaming,” said HCC trustee Sherry Jacobson, who presented awards at two hospital ceremonies. “We’re pleased to help them recognize these professionals each year.”

At the Winifred Masterson Burke Rehabilitation Hospital in Westchester, a plaque bearing the names of all former Wholeness of Life award winners hangs in the main hall. “You can tell that the staff loves this event,” said HCC trustee Carolina Jaramillo-Johnson, after presenting the award to Burke’s Martha Piccininni. “It gives them a chance to reflect on the spiritual aspect of their own work. Administrators here know patient feedback indicates a strong appreciation for care that is holistic.”

Drawing and providing inspiration

Mary J. Deady-Rooney, staff nurse and Lenox Hill Hospital’s honoree, described how her mother had inspired her. After a brief illness, her mother died in a hospital in Ireland shortly after Ms. Deady-Rooney had come to the States. “My mother’s death, I’ve always felt, was due to inadequate attention and patient information. That made me vow to always spend the proper time with my patients,” she said. Ms. Deady-Rooney brought her own daughters to the ceremony. “I hope they will learn that caring for others is one of the most important things we can do with our lives,” she said.

A better world

Speaking on behalf of all of his fellow honorees at the awards dinner, Albert Saldana, director of social work at Beth Israel Medical Center’s Singer Division, said, “Each day through acts of kindness we bring ourselves and others closer to God. Everyone—from the elevator operator or the nursing assistant who comforts a child before surgery, to an administrator who develops patient programs. . . Each act makes for better human beings and ultimately a better world.”
Wholeness of Life Awards Bring “Spirit” to the Language of Healthcare

PATIENT CARE PROFESSIONALS HONORED IN PARTNER HEALTHCARE INSTITUTIONS AND AT NOVEMBER 13TH BENEFIT DINNER

The concept of engaging the spirit, now quietly emerging into mainstream healthcare, has always been the cornerstone of The HealthCare Chaplaincy’s work. Inaugurated in 1986, HCC’s Wholeness of Life Awards have become an annual recognition of healthcare professionals for their exceptional care of the whole person: body, mind, and spirit.

Most meaningful recognition

“This is the most important recognition I’ve ever received,” said Jerome Lowenstein, director of humanistic aspects of medical education at NYU Medical Center. A distinguished nephrologist, Dr. Lowenstein is not referring to an award for his pioneering work in treating renal disease, but to this year’s Wholeness of Life Award. Fifteen patient care professionals, ranging from dietary workers to social workers, were honored in dual ceremonies—at their institu-

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TRUSTEES AND STAFF TAKE FIRST STEPS IN NEW STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

“Think outside the box” seemed to be the mantra at The HealthCare Chaplaincy’s board and staff retreat held in Tarrytown, NY on October 24th, as trustees, clinical staff, and administrative staff came together to create the framework for The Chaplaincy’s new strategic plan.

Yesterday, today, and tomorrow

Retreat facilitator Louis Scenti, an executive director at Morgan Stanley, challenged the ninety participants in a day-long retreat to explore new directions for The Chaplaincy’s future work. Staff and trustees described how they envisioned the profession of chaplaincy “yesterday, today, and tomorrow.” “There is certainly no dearth of creative ideas fermenting among you,” said Mr. Scenti. Some participants recalled the days when HCC staff consisted of a small number of Protestant clergy ministering almost exclusively to Christian patients. Chaplains and trustees alike remarked how far the organization has come in a

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The Wholeness of Life Awards Dinner

Bruce J. Klatsky, and fifteen patient care professionals honored for their care of the whole person—body, mind, and spirit

Special tribute honors Carolyn and John Twiname

NOVEMBER THIRTEENTH, TWO THOUSAND AND THREE

1. Carolyn and John Twiname receive the Wholeness of Life Award
2. Bruce Klatsky, 2003 Wholeness of Life Community Honoree, with his wife, Iris
3. John and Urvi Prunier
4. Trustee the Rev. Canon George Brandt, Chaplain Peggy Muncie, Jane Sellery, and trustee Hope Preminger
5. Ira Greenblatt and Father Walter Smith, S.J., The Chaplaincy’s president and CEO
6. Benefit co-chair Dr. Joel Goldberg
7. Rabbi Harlan Wechsler gives the evening’s benediction
8. Arlyn and Ed Gardner with trustee Melissa Eisenstat
9. Dr. Brian Saltzman of Beth Israel Medical Center with Sylvia Weinstock
A Gathering of Friends

Friends of The HealthCare Chaplaincy gathered for the annual Wholeness of Life Awards benefit dinner at Cipriani 42nd Street to celebrate the accomplishments of some truly extraordinary individuals. Bruce J. Klatsky, chairman and CEO of Phillips-Van Heusen, received the 2003 Community Honoree Wholeness of Life Award for his remarkable contributions to improving human rights practices around the globe and promoting civic responsibility and diversity in the community. Fifteen patient care professionals were also honored for attending to the spirit of patients, families, and staff in The Chaplaincy’s partner healthcare institutions. Visit www.healthcarechaplaincy.org for photos and citations of each of these compassionate caregivers.

In a very special tribute, Carolyn and the Rev. John D. Twiname, life trustees and former co-presidents of The Chaplaincy, were honored for their 20 years of service and legacy of compassionate and visionary leadership. The crowd gave them a standing ovation.

10. Benefit co-chair Ken Duane with his wife, Jincie
11. Carter, Gladys, and Hanni Dinkeloo
12. Shirley Yvonne Elizabeth Brooks, R.N., St. Luke’s-Roosevelt Hospital Center’s honoree
13. Suzanne Fawbush with trustee Imam Luqman Abdush-Shahid
14. Lucio Noto, former Wholeness of Life Community Honoree
15. Muriel Palitz with Elizabeth and Joe Engle
16. Joyce Rumsfeld and Carolyn Twiname
17. Tim Ryan, Don Farbanks, and Judy Ryan
18. Father Joseph O’Hare, S.J., former president of Fordham University, with trustee Peggy Hill
19. Edward Dinan, Lawrence Hospital’s CEO, with Lawrence’s honoree Dr. Kerianne Page, and Chaplain Sarah Fogg
20. Mary McDermott, R.N., Hospital for Special Surgery’s honoree, with HSS’s Sr. Margaret Oettinger, O.P.
21. Trustees Herb Prem and Julie Cho with James McQueen
22. Life trustee Bill Spears with his wife, Maria, and trustee Dr. Mary O’Neil Mundinger
“Staff members stop me in the halls all the time to tell me how wonderful it is to have student chaplains here,” said Sr. Maureen Mitchell, R.S.M., Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) supervisor at North Shore University Hospital. “They feel it adds to the spiritual dimension of the hospital.” The CPE program is new to North Shore, though the medical staff has long been aware of the need for a comprehensive spiritual care program.

**Relationship building pays off**

“We need to equip doctors with the language and the intent to ask questions about a patient’s spiritual life,” said Dr. Fred Smith, senior associate chief of general internal medicine at North Shore. He presented a didactic session to the CPE students about helping chaplains build closer relationships with physicians.

And it’s working. Sr. Maureen and student chaplains recently participated in a prayer circle for a 17-year-old patient who had just been declared brain dead. “With our guidance, the doctor waited to pronounce the patient until the family could be there,” she said. “He even participated in the prayer!”

“I knew that the pastoral care department would grow to include an education program,” said department director the Rev. Jon Overvold. North Shore, voted the number one hospital in America by AARP, became a Chaplaincy partner in 2002. With 880 beds, a 253-bed rehabilitation center, and a level one trauma center, the hospital clearly has a need for students and provides an opportunity for learning in a diverse environment.

**Different goals; common mission**

“As an oncology nurse, I would often sit and listen to patients’ fears,” said Cynthia Maiello, a Catholic layperson and CPE student at North Shore. “I slowly realized that spiritual care was my calling.

And Sr. Maureen is wonderful—she challenges us to learn and grow.” Ms. Maiello hopes to become a board certified chaplain.

Her classmate, Hannah Schwartz, comes from a different perspective. “My husband is a rabbi and encouraged me to take a unit of CPE. I’m not sure where it will take me, but it’s been wonderful so far,” she said. “Being with people you trust, your strengths and weaknesses come to the forefront. It helps us to really be there for patients.”

**The extension of spiritual care**

Students are there for patients in many ways. “One student recently held a prayer service to celebrate the birthday of an 18-year-old terminally ill patient, which was on a Sunday,” said Chaplain Overvold. “This student preferred working on the weekend; everyone benefited.”

The education program expands to reach physicians and other staff as well as students, all continuing to learn from patients, “the living human documents” in pastoral education.
exclusively Protestant Christian to a multifaith organization, they were nothing short of visionary. They believed that despite religious differences, chaplains and patients share common spiritual gifts and needs. As we recently honored the Twinames with The Chaplaincy’s prestigious Wholeness of Life Award, we were reaffirming the multifaith mission of The HealthCare Chaplaincy and celebrating the rich spiritual interdependence of our lives and works. Diana Eck says it so well: “. . . the opportunity to create a positive multireligious society out of the fabric of a democracy, without the chauvinism and religious triumphalism that have marred human history, is now ours.”

As the old year ebbs, we at The Chaplaincy know how richly our multifaith blessings abound. In the unity of mind and heart, we know that you share our dream for a world in which religion will bind us together, not tear us apart. With you, we renew a common prayer that the New Year be filled with health and peace for all.

Walter J. Smith, S.J.

ber brought her pregnant sister. “She told me that those hands are going to hold her nephew,” Chaplain Mather said, “and asked me to bless them well.”

The Rev. Jo Clare Wilson, director of pastoral care and education at Griffin Hospital in Connecticut, performs hand blessings at the quarterly Planetree retreats for Griffin staff, as well as during Nurses Week and Pastoral Care Week. “We let staff know that there is spirituality in all of their work,” she said. “After having her hands blessed, one nurse told me how wonderful it felt to be reminded that what she does is sacred.”

Task Forces Focus on Specific Aspects of Chaplaincy’s Mission

Seven task forces co-led by trustees and staff were created to study and recommend future directions:

1. core businesses and new ventures
2. education
3. research
4. governance and management
5. finance and development
6. communications and technology
7. staff recruitment, retention, development, and compensation

“This is all very exciting; so much energy and expansive thinking was generated here today,” said Karen Smythe, Chaplaincy board secretary and chair of the communications and technology task force. “I know great things will come from all this hard work and collaboration.” The HealthCare Chaplaincy expects that its new plan will be ready for board review and approval by July 2004.

IF YOU’D LIKE TO RECEIVE A “HEALING HANDS” BOOKMARK, WRITE TO THE BEACON OR SEND AN E-MAIL TO INFO@HEALTHCARECHAPLAINCY.ORG.
Last spring, I accompanied Jack Rudin to one of a series of lectures he annually sponsors at Auburn Theological Seminary. One might think it unusual for a Jesuit priest to accompany a Jewish businessman and philanthropist to a theology lecture at a progressive Presbyterian seminary, given by a midwestern Methodist woman who teaches comparative religion and Indian studies at Harvard University. But in the multifaith world of The HealthCare Chaplaincy, an event like this is an ordinary part of the landscape. As I write these year-end reflections, I have just completed a Chanukah letter, am preparing a Christmas greeting, and have recently joined with Muslims for iftar observances (breaking the fast) during Ramadan. Religious pluralism surrounds and enriches us every day.

The Rudin lecture was given by Diana Eck who authored an insightful book, *A New Religious America*. In her introduction, Professor Eck contends that “religion is never a finished product, packaged, delivered, and passed intact from generation to generation.” There are some religious leaders who might strenuously contest her assertion, maintaining that their sacred texts, doctrines and dogmas, rituals and traditions ensure the authenticity of religious teaching and the integrity of its practice. Professor Eck, who heads the Pluralism Project at Harvard, believes religion is inherently dynamic, not static, “more like rivers than monuments.” Hers is an optimistic view of interreligious collaboration. “The interfaith agenda, in all its complexity, is now America’s agenda,” she writes.

“...religion is inherently dynamic, not static, ‘more like rivers than monuments.’”

Twenty years ago, when Carolyn and John Twiname strategically determined that the future of The Chaplaincy hinged on its transformation from an...
Members of North General Hospital’s Harlem Outreach Program for Emergencies (HOPE) recently completed a two-day training in “Advanced Critical Incident Stress Management: Advanced Group Crisis Intervention” directed by the Rev. Carlos Alejandro. The HOPE Team, a faith-based Community Response Team, responds primarily to traumatic incidents in the Harlem community.

**The Rev. Arlinda Derrick** (Rehab Institute of New York at Florence Nightingale Health Center) held a Clergy/Faith Leaders breakfast that brought community clergy together to discuss pastoral care volunteerism. **The Rev. Martha Jacobs** (The HealthCare Chaplaincy) and **the Rev. Dr. Joan Murray** (Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center) were invited speakers.

**The Rev. Dr. Sarah Fogg** (Lawrence Hospital Center) presented the workshop on “Grief: Its Stages & Helpful Caregiver References” at the annual Partners in Healing Conference held at Fordham University.

**The Rev. Stephen Harding** (Beth Israel Medical Center) has been appointed the Protestant Chaplain for the New York City Fire Department. Fr. Harding was sworn in as part of a promotion ceremony at the Fire Academy on Randall’s Island.

**Imam Yusuf Hasan** (Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, St. Luke’s-Roosevelt Hospital Center) spoke at the Spirituality and Healing Conference at Harvard University on the subject of “Forgiveness from an Islamic Perspective.”

**The Rev. Melody Meeter** (Lenox Hill Hospital) led the 2nd annual Cathy Nguyen Award Service, at Lenox Hill’s Manhattan Eye, Ear & Throat Hospital. The award acknowledged Alla Dzhanashvili, RN, for her exemplary compassionate patient care. Cathy Nguyen was a MEETH employee and the first person in New York City to die from anthrax in October 2001.

**Rabbi Bonita E Taylor** (The HealthCare Chaplaincy) published the article entitled: “Giving and Sharing: The Gift of Life” (written with NAJC colleague Rabbi David J. Zucker) in the Fall 2003 issue of The Orchard.

Chaplaincy researchers **the Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Weaver** and **Dr. Kevin J. Flannelly** published two articles in The Journal of Pastoral Care and Counseling: “Spirituality, Depression, and Loneliness Among Jewish Seniors Residing in New York City,” written with several colleagues from the rabbinic and research community, and “Research on Religion and Health and Professional Chaplaincy: A Second Opinion,” written with Dr. Howard W. Stone.

Volunteers are needed for The Chaplaincy’s research library. Interested? Call Adrienne Strock at (212) 644-1111, ext. 235.

PlainViews: an e-newsletter connecting chaplains and other spiritual care providers begins semi-monthly publication on January 15, 2004. For a free subscription, send an e-mail to info@healthcarechaplaincy.org.

**Newsweek Magazine’s November 10 article, “Faith and Healing.”** The article quotes chaplains and staff at North Shore University Hospital on the benefits of pastoral care, and includes photographs of the Rev. Jon Overvold, Sr. Maureen Mitchell, R.S.M., Imam Yusuf Hasan, and Rabbi Stephen Roberts.