

GREATER WALTHAM Arc NEWS

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Save the Dates!

From the Chief Executive Officer, Roz Rubin –

It is already shaping up as a very busy summer—in July we will welcome the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF International) for their two-day survey and accreditation of our programs. With our new staff position, Coordinator of Curriculum, in place (see inside article about Kari) everyone is helping to organize materials and create new activities to improve daily programming. I join the Board Members in continuing to seek possible new space for the agency. (It's great to picture GWArc in a new accessible and specially adapted space, just haven't found it yet!). The end of the fiscal year (June 30) brings many documents to prepare as we look back on the past year and plan the next, our 56th year of service. And did I mention Harvest Breakfast? We are planning our 42nd annual event for October. Lots to do, but much anticipated fun to be had.

Hardly a chance to stop and smell the flowers – growing very nicely in both Chestnut Street and Woodland Road raised flower beds again this summer. But let's all take a moment to enjoy the nice weather, while we have it, and have a safe and pleasant summer. Best regards from GWArc to you, our readers and friends in the community.

Roz Rubin

Roslynn Rubin, Ed.D
Chief Executive Officer



Meet GWArc's AFC Team!

We are excited to introduce ourselves—the Adult Family Care (AFC) Team—Care Manager Heather Chagnon and Nurse Bonnie Kiernan, RN. The AFC Program is a MassHealth funded program which offers financial support to friends or family members who are caregivers in the home for loved ones living with disabilities or who are elderly. Caregivers can receive a tax-free stipend of approximately \$9,000 (Level I) or \$18,000 (Level II) per year, depending on the level of support provided.

The Adult Family Care Program has proven to be a great help to families, and we are working hard to reach out to families in our community who may be eligible. If you or someone you know may benefit from the Adult Family Care Program, please contact the AFC Team at 781-899-1344 x4145. The AFC Team will work one-on-one with the caregiver and/or family to develop an individualized Plan of Care and will provide training, regular visits and services to help support the individual and caregiver.

For further information, please contact us or visit GWArc's website, www.gwarc.org.

Sincerely,

Heather Chagnon and Bonnie Kiernan, RN
GWArc Adult Family Care Team
781-899-1344 x 4145

hchagnon@gwarc.org bkiernan@gwarc.org

GWArc Adult Family Care Program—"Serving the Community, Supporting Families"



Heather Chagnon (left) and Bonnie Kiernan, RN

What's This? ... New GWArc Logo



GWArc's New Logo

GWArc has joined 715 chapters across the U.S. in transitioning to this new logo (above) that signifies our affiliation with The Arc of the United States.

This new eye-catching orange, black and yellow logo has replaced GWArc's former blue logo (below) on our website, and in all of our brochures and publications.



GWArc's Former Logo

The new logo was designed by The Arc of the U.S. It communicates their commitment and the unified commitment of chapters in Massachusetts and other states across the country to promote and protect the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and to actively support their full inclusion and participation in the community.

The flowing shape of the icon is intended to reflect our embracing nature while the burst of energy at the top right is symbolic of how we support independence.

As transition to this new logo continues, it will become increasingly recognized and will help The Arc of the U.S., Arc of Massachusetts, GWArc and other affiliated chapters to:

- build awareness
- grow the impact of advocacy efforts and access to services
- increase resources available to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families

In Memory ...



We are saddened by the loss of two longtime GWArc consumers, Grace Durkee and Olympia Marciello, who passed away earlier this year. They are greatly missed by everyone at GWArc.

This Spring, a flowering tree was donated and planted by John Nicolazzo & Son

Landscaping in their memory in front of 56 Chestnut Street. A memorial plaque was placed near the tree. Many consumers and staff members placed blue stones under the tree as a way to honor and remember their friends.

Recreation Update

- Inclusive Summer Day Camp: GWArc is pleased to provide support this summer to children with disabilities who plan to attend local day camps from July 30 to August 24. Participating camps are run by Waltham Boys and Girls Club, Waltham Recreation and Waltham YMCA. GWArc support services are provided due to funding from the City of Waltham Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).
- Watch our website for news about our new Recreation Manager, arriving in July!
- Please check our website for future recreation programs. Our Fall Recreation brochure will be available soon.

For more information about Recreation, contact GWArc at 781-899-1344 or Recreation@gwarc.org.

See Our Employment Opportunities!

Please visit our website for the latest GWArc Employment Opportunities—
www.gwarc.org/EmploymentOpportunities

Winter and Spring at GWArc ...

Ciao Down for GWArc

Our 3rd Annual "Ciao Down for GWArc" fundraiser, held April 27, was a great success! A huge thank you to our generous event sponsor:

- Embassy Suites Waltham

and our Corporate Sponsors:

- The Nelson Companies
- Eastern Bank
- RTN Federal Credit Union
- Watertown Savings Bank

and all who supported this fun, festive event!



Roz Rubin, left, with Ann Marie Huff, granddaughter of GWArc Founder Lawrence Lane, at Ciao Down for GWArc in April.



GWArc Board Member Jim Baron and his daughter, Michaela, sell raffle tickets at Ciao Down.

Artists of GWArc State House Art Show

Paintings created by the Artists of GWArc were displayed in an art show in the offices of Senator Susan Fargo at the Massachusetts State House during January and February.

Thanks to Senator Fargo and Fargo staff member Kelly Durkee-Erwin for helping to arrange this art show, which highlighted to legislators the importance of the arts for persons with disabilities.



Roz Rubin (far left) presents Senator Susan Fargo (center) with the gift of a framed Artists of GWArc painting at the State House Art Show Opening Reception in January. GWArc Artist-in-Residence Pablo Friedmann is at right.

Legislative Wrap-Up

- GWArc, along with Beaverbrook STEP, Eliot Community Human Services and WCI, called on legislators to continue to support our programming at the Waltham Legislative Town Meeting in March.
- Many consumers and staff attended the Arc of Massachusetts Legislative Day at the State House in March.
- GWArc consumers, staff and family members had a productive meeting with State Representative John Lawn at Woodland Road in April.

Creating Engaging Curriculum—New GWArc Staff Member's Unique Role

GWArc has created a new staff position—Coordinator of Curriculum and Community Based Activities. The role is to work with staff members and consumers to ensure that



Kari Parcell, with the Morning Meeting Board and other curriculum materials.

GWArc's curriculum is as enriching and engaging as possible, while also supporting consumers to achieve their goals.

Kari Parcell has taken this staff position. She is reviewing existing curriculum and community trips and is planning new activities for participants in our Day Education and

PLUS adult day programs, summer Semester Break program for Group Supported Employment workers at Brandeis, Bentley and Lasell Universities and BIS Mailing Services employees (during non-production time).

The key focus is getting input from consumers about their preferences and understanding their abilities, interests and needs. Kari is also working with staff members and consultants (OT, PT and speech) to incorporate consumer goals into new activities.

New curriculum implemented includes a Morning Meeting Board that brings consumers together to discuss goals and plans for each day. The board provides a structure for each morning's discussion. New purchases include materials for sensory-motor goals and communication goals. Since music is

much loved at GWArc, a large collection of "band instruments" has been purchased. In-house made items include "I Spy" tubes and matching shapes bingo for Day Hab consumers. A number of new games and activities have also been implemented to build skills and engage consumers both individually and in groups.

Kari continues to work on developing BARK@GWArc, the agency's new dog biscuit micro-business. With the GWArc van ready to go, community trips to volunteer and visit area sights are being planned.

Kari holds a BS degree from the University of Oregon and has extensive experience in Day Habilitation Programming. Welcome Kari!

And the Winners Are ...

Congratulations to GWArc Foam Shape Contest winners John Wiswall, CFO, and Brian Maggio, Speech/Language consultant!

John and Brian designed games using foam shapes; their games have been made into large laminated boards by Kari Parcell and will be used by GWArc consumers. John and Brian received restaurant gift cards as prizes.



Brian Maggio (left) and John Wiswall with their game boards.



GWArc

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We're Going Green!

If you would like to receive our newsletter by email instead of a printed copy, please email us at gwarc@gwarc.org or call 781-899-1344 ext. 0.

We're on the web!
www.gwarc.org



Scan with your smartphone to visit our website!

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Save the Dates!

Please mark your calendars and save the dates for our upcoming events!

GWArc's 42nd Annual Harvest Breakfast Sunday, October 14 8 AM—12 Noon

Embassy Suites Waltham Flapjacks and Family Fun!!

This year our Harvest Breakfast ad book is **going green**—we will be moving to a new “virtual” format, replacing our printed ad book with an elegant and engaging visual presentation of ads and messages from sponsors and other advertisers, interspersed with photos, on screens in both seating locations.

We are looking for Harvest Breakfast sponsors! If you or someone you know would like to be a Harvest Breakfast sponsor or advertiser, please contact Joanne Raymond, 781-899-1344 x4147, jraymond@gwarc.org or visit our website for more information.

GWArc's Annual Meeting and Recognition Awards Monday, November 19, 6:45 PM Embassy Suites Waltham

GWArc's Annual Appeal Continues.....

As we near the end of our fiscal year, please consider a gift to GWArc. Your tax-deductible donation will make it possible for us to continue to provide enriching experiences so important to the quality of life of children, adolescents and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Note: You may donate with the enclosed remittance envelope. If you would like to make your donation online, please do so at www.gwarc.org, see “Make a Donation”.

And if you have already made a donation, please accept our sincere thanks!

Please note that memorial donations to GWArc are used for purchase of equipment and materials for day programs.

Thank you for your generosity to GWArc.

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