



# GREATER WALTHAM Arc NEWS

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**September 2011**

## **From the Chief Executive Officer, Roz Rubin –**



Greetings from GWArc! I have been searching for years now for a “quiet” time at the agency. And I have yet to find it. As you read this brief, but hopefully informative newsletter, you will see that while there was plenty of summer fun, we are gearing up for fall community activities at GWArc.

With the end of the fiscal year in June, many reports are prepared, from the Operational Plan and Accessibility Plan for the new year to the all-important and comprehensive Performance Analysis of the past year. These documents take time, but are critical to measuring past success and planning for further agency improvements. They are summarized on our web site. You are also welcome to contact me to view parts or all of the total documents.

Also inside, the colorful announcement of GWArc’s 41<sup>st</sup> Harvest Breakfast...can we top last year’s event? Only with your help – PLEASE join us on October 16 at the Embassy Suites. Annual Meeting is not until November, but we are using this newsletter mailing to invite you to attend...our keynote speaker promises to be very exciting. It is a great opportunity to salute GWArc staff, businesses and volunteers in the community.

Back to the summer fun....we hope the pictures inside show that GWArc knows how to enjoy the great warm weather we had – from cookouts to Special Olympics and activities. It was a safe and happy summer.

Thanks for your interest in GWArc. And again, I invite you to be in touch with me, our Board of Directors members or GWArc staff with your input to keep GWArc a respected and effective agency through our 55<sup>th</sup> year.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roz Rubin".

Roslynn Rubin, Ed.D  
Chief Executive Officer

## GWArc Program News & Updates

### Day Education

- Bocce tournaments, tie dyed t-shirts and a new snow cone machine were part of the summer fun for Day Education consumers these last few months.
- A trip to Drumlin Farms reminded us that beautiful farm land and animals are closer to Waltham than we think, especially when we take our wonderful GWArc van.
- Staff from both Day Education and EPT programs began their American Sign Language Training in August, funded through a grant from Community Health Network Area (CHNA) 17.

### EPT

- Thanks to the TJX Foundation for a grant that will help provide stipends to Waltham High School students who volunteer for work experience through our School to Work Transitions Program.
- August 5 brought a beautiful day for a day long outing at Lake Cochituate – cookout, swimming, games and the annual water balloon mischief were part of the fun.
- One of the summer outings this year was a trip to Lookout Farms, Natick for some local produce and ice cream for all.

### Recreation

- Some good times for the Recreation Department included a trip to a Lowell Spinners'

Game, Circus Smirkus Performance and being a part of the Challenger Baseball League.

- Supported Summer Camp was held at five different city day camps in July and August.
- Find the fall Recreation Brochure on our web site [www.gwarc.org](http://www.gwarc.org).

### Watch City Self Advocates

- Watch City Self Advocates is embarking on a new venture. They will now be joining forces with self advocates from the Minuteman Arc in Concord. The goal is to learn more about one another's organization and activities and perhaps make a new friend or two along the way.
- Watch City Self Advocates Officers Sheila Hernandez, Brian Doucette and Kristina Smith travelled to Concord for the first combined meeting on June 28<sup>th</sup>. Members of Minuteman Arc Self Advocacy Groups will now meet with Watch City Self Advocates on September 27<sup>th</sup>. At September's meeting, the two groups will plan for their recently voted and shared "giving back goal" for 2011/2012 – collecting for Operation American Soldier.

### Marketing and Development

- In August, GWArc completed a special mailing thanking new and long time donors to the agency. We used our updated database to compile the mailing list. If you did not receive this thank you card, we want to use this opportunity to send our sincere appreciation to you. Each and every gift to GWArc is needed and acknowledged.

### GWArc Welcomes Back...



Meet Leah Igdauskay, Brandeis University sophomore, who joins us again this year as the Marketing Intern. Leah came to GWArc last September and proved to be invaluable in assisting in all the details of events, publications, information updates and more.

Leah is from Connecticut and has settled into Brandeis student life this year as a resident life staff member. She is a psychology major. And we think whatever work she chooses to pursue, she will be terrific.

Look for Leah at Harvest Breakfast and say "hello". Welcome back, Leah!

### Happy 55th Anniversary to GWArc!



GWArc will celebrate our 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on December 12, 1956!

1956 President: Lawrence Lane; Officers: Robert O'Connell, George McQuiston and James Rynn (information taken from the original Articles of Organization).



GWArc's new tabletop banners and table runner (pictured at left) highlight GWArc's mission, programs and our 55 years of service. These colorful and portable items will travel to many upcoming events including the September Business Expo, Harvest Breakfast, Annual Meeting and other community events.

## Summer at GWArc



Day Education consumers (l to r) Grace Durkee, Mary Melanson, Olympia Marciello and Michelle Bourgeois participate in a Bocce Tournament, held this summer at a park in Newton.



EPT consumers and staff play games at the EPT picnic at Lake Cochituate in August. Above (l to r), Mathew Lee, Brian Horrigan, Sheila Hernandez, Eddie Kishlansky, Alixson Marc, Stephen Scaparotti, Barbara Gionis.



EPT staff members (above, l to r) James Lewis, Amy Kingsbury and Maurice Carter grill hamburgers and hot dogs at the EPT Picnic.



Staff member James Lewis and CEO Roz Rubin work the grill at the GSE Semester Break Program barbecue in August.



Staff members and GSE college site employees enjoy each other's company and a delicious barbecue lunch at Chestnut Street. The GSE Semester Break Program, which included many educational and fun field trips and activities, was held at Chestnut Street this summer.



GWArc Special Olympics team members, coaches and volunteers gather at GWArc in June prior to their departure for the Massachusetts Special Olympics competition.



Watch City Self Advocate Officers meet with members of Minuteman Arc's Self Advocacy Groups in June to share goals and ideas.



Bob Johnson (above left), President and CEO of Special Olympics Massachusetts, and Joe O'Connell pose with "Flat Stanley Cup", in recognition of the Boston Bruins, at the June competition.



Thomas Doyle (pictured above left) competes in a swimming event in his first Special Olympics. Above, participants compete in a track and field event. Left, swimming competitor Danny Powers receives a medal.

## Best Website in Town?? — We Think So!

At GWArc we spend considerable time managing and updating our website, [www.gwarc.org](http://www.gwarc.org) — with the latest good news about the agency, announcements of upcoming events and opportunities for you to purchase event tickets and donate online to the agency. Many important documents are only a “click” away. And you can keep learning about us by reading these extra articles. Of course, the Recreation Brochure is on our website, for easy viewing of upcoming community social events for children, adolescents and adult consumers.

So — see our website, always up to date, always something new to view. Contact CEO Roz Rubin if you have suggestions

to keep improving the site. Thanks for your attention.

### **Legislative Advocacy — Just Got Easier!**

Look for the new links to advocacy sites and information on the GWArc website, [www.gwarc.org](http://www.gwarc.org). Click on “Resources” at the top of the home page or on “Legislative Advocacy Listing” at the bottom of the home page. Connect easily to Arc Massachusetts and The Arc of the United States websites including the capwiz program that informs you and assists you in contacting your legislators on topics of vital importance to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



**GWArc**  
56 Chestnut Street  
Waltham, MA 02453  
Phone: 781-899-1344  
Fax: 781-899-2197  
TDD: 781-899-8555  
E-mail: [gwarc@gwarc.org](mailto:gwarc@gwarc.org)

### 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](mailto:gwarc@gwarc.org) or call 781-899-1344 ext. 0.

We're on the web!  
[www.gwarc.org](http://www.gwarc.org)

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### Artists of GWArc Gallery Art Show

The Artists of GWArc Gallery Art Show was held in June. The display showcased the art work of GWArc consumers created during a series of art classes taught by artist-in-residence Pablo Friedmann during the winter and spring. Art classes were funded by a grant from the Waltham Cultural Council\*.



Photos from the Art Show: GWArc's Chestnut Street lobby and staircase (above left and center). Kelly Durkee-Erwin of the Waltham Cultural Council chats with artist Pablo Friedmann at the opening reception (above right). Below left, GWArc CEO Roz Rubin with Pablo. Below center, art on display in GWArc's Chestnut Street Conference Room. Below right, Donald Grose and Pablo set up the art show, hanging works on clothespins.



\*This program is supported by a grant from the Waltham Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

### GWArc Annual Meeting Keynote Speaker—Pablo Friedmann

Artist Pablo Friedmann will be the Keynote Speaker at GWArc's Annual Meeting on November 14. Pablo will present his ongoing experiences as GWArc's visiting artist/teacher as well as other experiences with persons with challenges. Please join us!

### Artists of GWArc 2012 Calendar Coming this Fall!

The 2012 wall calendar features art work created by GWArc consumers in classes with Pablo, and will be available for \$10 at Harvest Breakfast and Annual Meeting (while supplies last)!



# Greater Waltham Arc's 41st Annual Harvest Breakfast Stacking up for success!! Once Again!

Sunday, October 16, 2011 8:00 a.m. – 12 Noon

Embassy Suites, Waltham  
550 Winter Street Waltham, MA 02451

- Food/Entertainment**
- Bountiful Buffet Breakfast
  - Music by KBD Entertainment
  - Line Dancing with Marilyn
  - Balloon Animals
  - The Magic of David Hall
  - Door Prizes
  - Silent Auction

## Platinum Host



EMBASSY SUITES®

Boston/Waltham

## Platinum Pancake Sponsors

The Battaglino  
Family



## Gold Pancake Sponsor



## Media Sponsor



To order your tickets by mail, please return this form with a check to:

GWArc, Inc.

56 Chestnut Street  
Waltham, MA 02453

For more information, email [gwarc@gwarc.org](mailto:gwarc@gwarc.org) or call 781-899-1344 x0

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please consider donating tickets back to the agency that will allow consumers and staff to attend who otherwise might not be able to! Thank you!

Number of tickets donated \_\_\_\_\_

All proceeds from the Harvest Breakfast go directly to support GWArc's programs, which serve over 600 children, adolescents and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families each year. GWArc is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Number of Adult Tickets

x \$24 = \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Senior/Special Needs Adult Tickets

x \$17 = \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children under 12 Tickets

x \$12 = \_\_\_\_\_

I WOULD LIKE TO BE LISTED AS A  
“FAMILY/FRIEND SPONSOR”

x \$35 = \_\_\_\_\_

I WOULD LIKE TO BE LISTED IN THE  
“FAMILY SPONSOR HALL OF FAME”—  
Special ad book coverage, special banner  
and podium recognition

x \$60 = \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_



## **GWArC 2011 Annual Meeting**

**Monday, November 14, 2011 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

**Embassy Suites, 550 Winter Street, Waltham**

***Dessert Reception 6:45 p.m.***

### ***~Keynote Speaker~***

**Pablo Friedmann, GWArC's Artist-in-Residence**

Pablo will present his ongoing experiences as GWArC's visiting artist/teacher as well as other experiences with persons with challenges. Pablo has helped many to express their creativity in various settings – homeless shelters, disability service agencies and prisons and will share their stories, as well as his own art works, with us. Pablo has a B.A. and M.A. from the Royal College of Art, London UK in painting and is an Instructor at Boston University and Newbury College. He also teaches and consults at many private and public schools and city arts collaboratives in the US and Mexico.

### ***~Community Awards to Be Presented~***

***Special Recognition (41<sup>st</sup> Annual Harvest Breakfast Platinum Pancake Sponsors) – The Battaglino Family & Park Lodge Hotel Group***

***Volunteers of the Year – Nan and Paul Okarma***

***Advocate of the Year – Kristina Smith***

***Jane Z. Kirsch Community Service Award – Foundation for MetroWest***

***Special Recognition Awards – O'Brien, Fitzgerald, Taylor & Keveaney, P.C.***

***and The Massachusetts Day Habilitation Coalition***

***Outstanding Community Leadership – Watertown Savings Bank***

***Business of the Year Award – Stop and Shop, Pleasant Street, Watertown***

GWArC is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families since 1956.

**For more information, contact GWArC at: (781) 899-1344 (781) 899-8555 TDD [gwarc@gwarc.org](mailto:gwarc@gwarc.org)**