

THE OPEN DOOR

PROVIDING QUALITY CARE TO DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED PEOPLE THROUGH COMMUNITY LIVING

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- CLC Celebration Gala 2
- Message from the Executive Director 3
- Kami's BBQ Reunion 3
- Men at Work 4
- Cruising by Land and Sea 5
- A Special Celebration 6
- Suzanne Minoff 6
- Getting to Know You... Anna Charitou 7

Next issue: May 2015

LINDA SAMPSON HONORED AT CLC 2015 GALA



Linda Sampson, Esq.

The Greentree Country Club in New Rochelle was the new venue for this year's CLC Celebration. Held on February 8, longtime CLC Foundation Board member Linda Sampson was the honoree.

Linda is an accomplished attorney who has put in countless hours of pro bono work with our organization. She has served as our attorney advisor, is a financial contributor, and assisted in acquiring, financing, renovating and opening our new CLC Headquarters at Radio Circle Drive. Linda's most recent endeavor is financing and building two horse sheds and a farm stand at Winslow Therapeutic Riding Center, which merged with CLC Foundation last year. Her dedication and support has made a world of difference to CLC and the people we serve.

Highlights of the afternoon were the Hidden Treasures Art Show and Silent Auction at which CLC consumer Eric Eaton showcased and sold three beautiful paintings. The many donated raffle items from family, friends and local businesses made the auction another success.

In the CLC tradition, there was plenty of dancing throughout the afternoon. Almost all of the CLC consumers attended as did many staff members and family and friends. Consumers looked especially fabulous in their dinner dance duds, which many have been shopping and planning for months. This year's event was generously sponsored by M&T Bank, United Asset Strategies, and The Westchester Bank.



CLC Celebration 2015



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Roger J. Cooper, President; Sandra Dammann, R.N., Secretary; Robert Brody, Treasurer;
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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

I am pretty sure that this weather will break eventually, despite the dire predictions of all those wood chucks caught diving back into their holes. Summer will definitely come to us (but then we'll be complaining about the heat and humidity).

We were able to have our Holiday party as planned with no interference from the weather. This is one of the highlights of the year and everyone had a great time with a wonderful dinner and lots of dancing. Late December and January brought us a succession of storms and tons of snow. Maybe not comparable to Buffalo or Boston, but certainly enough to remind us that winter was here.

We were really lucky that we fared well in terms of power outages. In fact, none of our locations have lost power this season. Our staff was able to come in for their shift and many stayed over as storm after storm rolled in. I was able to visit some of the houses during the last storm and found them all to be doing just fine, maybe cooking something special, playing board games or just enjoying a classic snow day!

It is a bit ironic that this year we were able to install two more generators in our more vulnerable houses and so far, we haven't lost power once. I won't put the foul weather gear away just yet though; March and April can really bring nasty surprises despite our chants to the sun gods.

Right now we're busy planning for the Spring and looking forward to getting our gardens ready and for ways to spend more time at Winslow either on the farm or beginning a much larger garden there as well. We hope to produce enough to be able to sell some of the products to local restaurants or through neighborhood farmer's markets. We will continue to look to expand our training for the food industry through our fledgling Culinary Connections program and of course, Jo Jo's Café.

The Governor's budget proposal is up for approval and there is little good news contained in it. While it doesn't contain any wild cuts, it also does not provide for a growing number of disabled individuals who will be rationing services that were once considered assured. I will be in contact with you as this issue develops and will ask for your support by writing to your elected officials urging them to support these services in the final budget.



Sharon Minick

Finally, and very sadly, we acknowledge the passing of Sharon Minick, a CLC consumer and friend to many. Sharon passed away in November. The entire CLC community extends our condolences to her family. A memorial service celebrating Sharon's life will be held on Saturday, April 18th, 2015 at the American Legion Hall in Mount Kisco at 10:00 AM.

John Porcella

Kami's BBQ Reunion

When Kami wed Dennis on September 14, 2013, including her CLC family in the festivities was a given. "Consumers have become my extended family, and it was an honor to have CLC folks at our wedding," said Kami Quast, Residence Manager at Curry Street.

When the newlyweds planned a barbecue last summer, Kami thought "what could be better than making it into a CLC wedding reunion!?"

"It was great fun to share our home with the consumers and staff," said Kami. "The barbecue was a big hit, and we all had a great time. Thank you Kim and her staff from Pound Ridge, and Tinna from Todd Road, and most of all, many thanks to our RPC Carol for bringing our three houses together. It's always nice to have family get-togethers."



MEN AT WORK

Forty properties including 10 homes and 30 apartments and condos from Pound Ridge to Peekskill; on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; up to 10 emergency calls a week; 1,011 works orders completed in 12 months; 26 major renovation projects finished last year; collective 60 years of experience; and 5 maintenance crew. (No partridge in a pear tree.) That's a quick overview of CLC's Maintenance Department.

Headed by Nick Patchoros, Facility Operations Manager, the crew includes Luis Acebo, Senior Maintenance Worker, his son Jean Carlos Estevez, Joe Espinal (he also does residential works with consumers after his day job!) and Hong (Bobby) Ye who has been with the agency for 21 years. "Joe's work with the consumers is very helpful to us as we plan projects," says Nick. "He brings an insight about their daily lives and what is important that we don't always have."

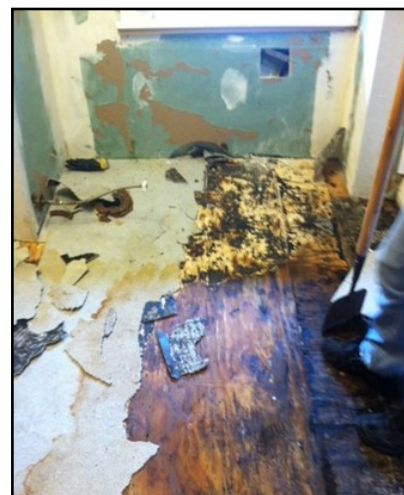
The crew meets every morning to go over the day's schedule. "We send two crew out to address work orders, e.g. items like fixing a loose cabinet door that are part of ongoing property maintenance," says Nick. "We always have a renovation project going, and we usually send two guys out to work on those."

However, calls that may have come in overnight that aren't immediate emergencies but must be addressed that day are quickly prioritized. "An example of an asap call would be a smoke detector chirping due to a low battery," says Nick. "Of course, a broken heating system is obviously urgent in cold weather, but so is air conditioning. If that goes down and it is hot outside, that's an urgent call as many consumers have health issues and need air conditioning. The health and safety of consumers always comes first."

Nick says that many of the larger renovations projects are bathroom and kitchen remodeling, fixing broken steps and fencing. The crew has a wide range of skills including carpentry, plumbing, tiling, flooring, installing appliances and masonry. "We even do our own landscaping," says Nick. "We outsource major heating and plumbing or electrical work and snow removal. Otherwise, we handle just about everything else."

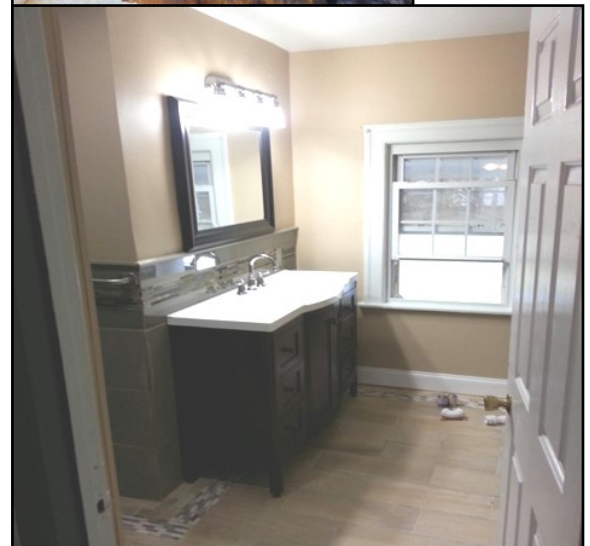
The crew performs monthly maintenance inspections of each property to make sure they aren't missing anything. "We also test the water on a quarterly basis," says Nick. "New York State mandates annual testing, but we go the extra mile."

When asked about the crew's biggest challenge, Nick has an immediate reply, "Remaining organized and keeping the work going while responding immediately to urgent calls. It changes every day and we have to adjust our plans accordingly to provide the very best service possible."



← Bathroom project under construction.

↓ All new, freshly painted bathroom with modern fixtures, tile and lighting.



CRUISING BY LAND AND SEA

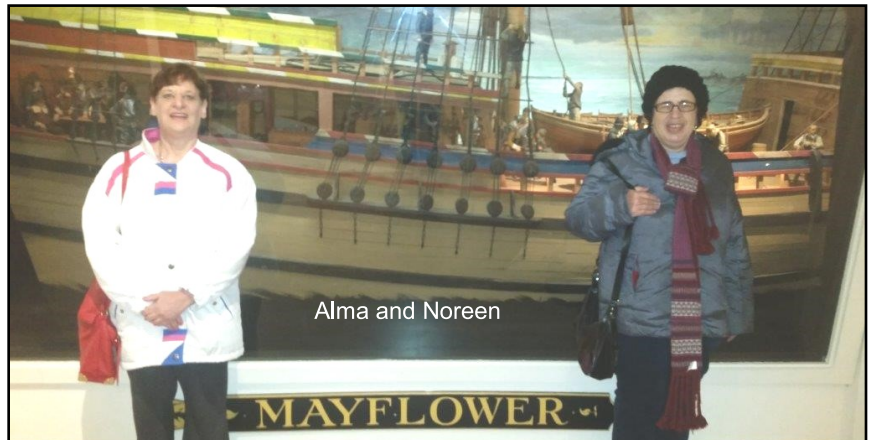
Consumers cruised the friendly skies, open roads and high seas from coast to coast this fall. A beach house in Malibu, waves crashing on the sand below our balconies made for a fabulous front yard. We visited Universal Studios Hollywood and met stars including Beetlejuice and Betty Boop. A host of characters greeted us as we strolled Hollywood Boulevard and Graumann's Chinese Theater. Magnificent sunsets in Santa Barbara and walks on Venice Beach topped off our Southern California adventure.

A trip to New England brought us to the historic Plymouth Rock, a bit of a tradition for us. We stayed in a glorious mansion overlooking a lake with a big bonfire pit on the beach. We saw the lighting of the Provincetown Monument as we embraced the sights and sounds of the Provincetown Museum reception held before the ceremony. Tom Murphy was quoted as saying "What a spread they got here, cider and everything." We sojourned back in time at the Plymouth Plantation. We met both Pilgrims and Indians and enjoyed their company while hearing tales of the olden days! Then a Thanksgiving feast fit for kings and queens!



Frank

Magical fall colors welcomed us in Halifax, Nova Scotia and St. John's, New Brunswick when we cruised the Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines. Nightly shows and the ice extravaganza were truly spectacular. The charming streets of hilly Halifax offered groovy shops with funky Canadian souvenirs. In St. John's, New Brunswick we visited the Saint John City Market, the oldest continuing farmer's market in Canada, with a charter dating from 1785. The unique roof resembles an inverted ship's keel. The best part of the cruise, however, was the non-stop dancing from decks to dance floors.



Alma and Noreen



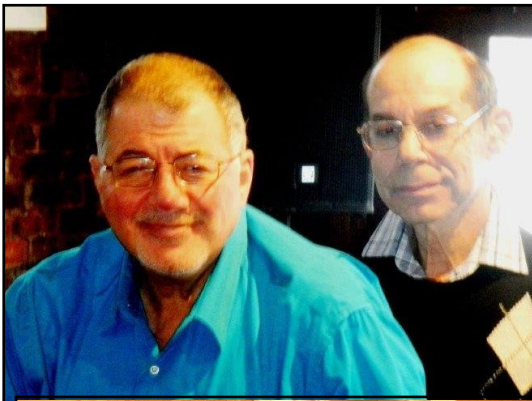
Tom and Betty Boop



Cruising: Becky, Ron, Eric, Jill, Chrissy, Sandy, Carrie, Mousy, Mary, Louise and Judy. (Hidden are Suzanne and Ken.)

A SPECIAL CELEBRATION FROM THE COMMUNITY

Last Thanksgiving, CLC consumers were treated to dinner at *Infusion*, a popular restaurant in Pelham, NY. The mood was festive as teens from the local high school helped serve up turkey dinner with all the trimmings.



SUZANNE MINOFF: The Sky's the Limit

Suzanne Minoff has worked for 32 years at one of the loveliest spots in Westchester County, high above the Hudson River at Croton's Skyview Nursing Home. While enjoying breathtaking views of the Tappan Zee Bridge and the vast expanse of the Hudson River, Suzanne transports Skyview's clients around the facility and to meals and other activities Monday through Friday. "It's a pretty spot and I can see the bridge. My father and sister Michele still live in Croton. I like working, and I get paid. And I *like* getting paid," adds Suzanne, who has a no nonsense view of things.

The Croton native lives in a two-bedroom apartment with three other roommates, Julie, Ellen and Phoebe, at Highland Avenue in Mount Kisco. We see other CLC people a lot, so it's convenient and fun." Taking advantage of *Hidden Treasures* activities, Suzanne does modern dance classes on Tuesdays and has just begun ballroom dancing.

At home, Suzanne likes to cook basic American food... hamburgers, chicken, and chops. "Nothing too fancy, but when I cook every Wednesday it's for all of us. And I do my own grocery shopping," she says proudly. When asked about movies or TV shows, tough critic Suzanne shrugs and notes, "I like a few, but nothing on TV is outstanding. *Law and Order Special Victims Unit* is the best. I prefer shopping and walking around town to TV, and there's plenty of shopping here."

Suzanne's favorite time of year is springtime, favoring the warmer weather and early blooming flowers. She usually doesn't have to wait for New York spring, however. She often joins her father and sister, traveling to Miami, Florida for family vacations in March. There she enjoys time with extended family members who travel down with her including her nephew Max, niece Madeline and Michele's husband Jim.



Suzanne also vacations with fellow CLCers. Last summer, she cruised to Nova Scotia. "We were supposed to go to Bermuda, but we were diverted north," she recalls. "I was surprised that Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were very nice. Of course, the food on cruise ships is always great and there's so much to do." When she's not working or cruising or shopping or cooking or on the ballroom floor, Suzanne relaxes with her IPAD, playing popular computer games like *Pet Rescue* and *Candy Crush Saga*. "I've gotten pretty good," she says, matter of factly. "Now if I can just figure out those ballroom dancing turns...!"

**GETTING TO KNOW YOU...
ANNA CHARITOU!**

The bright sun low on the horizon provides little relief to the biting cold this January afternoon, but there's plenty of warmth inside this CLC consumer's home. Meet Anna Charitou, a lovely young woman who has been living at the multifamily Mount Kisco residence for two years. Her house is on a quiet and cozy street that sits upon a gentle hill, convenient to the local shops below. It's a really great set-up as clients occupy the entire building, which has four apartments with room for three in each unit.

Since winter indoor activities keep Anna occupied, she spends leisure time watching movies of all types including action, comedy and romance. She also likes to read and is currently engrossed in "The Fault in Your Stars." During the week Anna goes to Northeast for special recreation opportunities such as bowling. "I just started learning ballroom dancing," Anna says excitedly. And if that's not enough exercise, there's a treadmill in her apartment and she tries to work that into her five day a week workout program.

Anna's parents live a town away in New Castle and visit on the weekends. This past Christmas the family took a road trip to relatives in Maryland including sister Phyllis and her husband Chris. Anna's older sister Marina lives in Long Island. Pictures of her family and friends are prominently displayed on her bedroom wall including those of her nieces Katerina, Athena and Sophia.



With her home centrally located, Anna can walk to the ample Mount Kisco shopping districts and attend services at the nearby Methodist Church. "I go with my friend and roommate Patty," she says, nodding at Patty who has joined us in the comfortable living room.

Most summers are spent on the Island of Cyprus. Says Anna, "Cyprus is so hot in the summer when I go to visit my Grandparents. We stay on the side with the great, beautiful mountains in the village of Kyperounda.

"My Grandmother is a fabulous cook and I miss her fresh stuffed grape leaves...right from the garden, yum. I love the pickles and fresh olives. And my Grandfather even makes his own wine and olive oil!"

When asked what's the best thing about living at a CLC residence, Anna responds, "I have everything I need, friends, family, and fun stuff to do. I just need a job, but I am sure I will find one soon."

**WINSLOW THERAPEUTIC RIDING CENTER
Warwick, NY**



CLC consumer Brian riding tall in the saddle at Winslow.

Katie with new friends.



Phoebe and Santa enjoying Winslow's holiday party.

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NOTES FROM OUR CLC FAMILY

Every year around the holidays we receive kind words from family and friends. Here are just a few of the many notes sent to us:

Thank you for a job well done!

Many thanks for all your hard work.

Thank you so much for what you do for my sister.

Many thanks for ongoing compassionate care.

Your staff is the best!

*Thank them for all they have done for my son
and all the other consumers.*

Thank you so much for caring for our family member.

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We want to hear
from you!
Please share your
comments,
stories, ideas
and photos
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