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With the end of the program, guests were treated to a fabulous array of desserts and had an opportunity to purchase Dr. Edelin's book and have it autographed before leaving. Overall, it was a splendid event. As one guest remarked, "what a wonderful way to celebrate this anniversary year!"

Dr. Edelin went on to detail his arrest and conviction for performing a legal abortion in 1973. While the shocking and eventually exhausting and frightening Edelin explained that he was inspired and energized by the thousands who wrote letters of support and who sent contributions to his defense fund. In the end, he explained, not only was he exonerated; the exposure has offered him a continuing opportunity to speak out and advocate for the right to reproductive choice.

Go to [www.uhpp.org](http://www.uhpp.org) to read some of the many tributes to Dr. Storm submitted by staff and supporters for the 75th Anniversary Celebration program.

choose when and whether to be a parent is to keep her a slave to her reproductive organs and deny her the opportunity to fully participate in society.

**75 YEARS**  
*Continued from cover*

**SAVE THE DATE: January 11, 2010**

**Women's Health Matters: A Day of Action**


The State Capitol Building, Albany, NY, 11 am to 3 pm

Join UHPP as we greet the state legislators and lay out our legislative priorities for 2010.

For more information, visit our website at [www.uhpp.org](http://www.uhpp.org) or call 434.567 x133.

**BECOME A FAN OF UHPP ON FACEBOOK!**

Search for Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood on Facebook and become a FAN! A great way to get updates and find out how you can help promote reproductive health and choice!



**SAVE THE DATE**

**JANUARY 21, 2010**

**ANNUAL ROE V. WADE CELEBRATION**

**HONORING DENISE O'DONNELL, COMMISSIONER, NYS DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES WITH THE 2010 UHPP ADVOCATE FOR CHOICE AWARD.**

Watch our website at [www.uhpp.org](http://www.uhpp.org) for further information.

# CHOICE *Remarks*

A Publication of Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood

Serving Albany, Columbia, Greene and Rensselaer Counties

## AN EVENT CELEBRATING 75 YEARS!

Two hundred supporters came out to Franklin Plaza in Troy on the evening of October 22, 2009 to celebrate the 75th

Anniversary of Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood. Guests arriving at 6:30 pm were treated to an array of hot and cold buffet dishes as well as an open bar, while event patrons enjoyed a private dinner with featured speaker, Dr. Kenneth Edelin. At 7:30 pm, UHPP President/CEO Patricia McGeown greeted the crowd and recognized the year's Honorary Co-Chairs and event underwriters. She then presented the prestigious UHPP Docky Award to Dr. Fred Storm.

Dr. Storm served as Chief Resident of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Albany Medical Center and spent 16 years in private practice, earning many devoted patients, before he came to work at UHPP. This year will be his 22nd year as UHPP's beloved Vice President of Medical Affairs. He continues to provide direct patient care at UHPP's three health centers, in addition to his administrative duties. He is also a devoted teacher and currently serves as a Clinical Assistant Professor at Albany Medical College. "At UHPP, I have the chance to positively influence the lives of my patients," he said recently. "Because women here are given the freedom to make choices about their own health and the timing of parenthood, I am able to provide them with opportunities in life that they may not otherwise have had."

The Docky Award is named for Dr. Frances "Docky" Vosburgh, who was the agency's first physician. The award is given for extraordinary contributions to UHPP programs and services. Past Docky Award winners who were present for the event, Phoebe Bender, Esther Lewis, Ruth Klepper and Mary Kahl,

joined Pat in presenting the award to Dr. Storm and the audience rose for a rousing and extended standing ovation.



Top: Dr. Fred Storm and past Docky Award winners who were present for the event, Phoebe Bender, Mary Kahl, Esther Lewis and Ruth Klepper. Right: CEO Pat McGeown and Board Chair Geoffrey Moore cut the 75th Anniversary cake.



Following Dr. Storm, UHPP Board President Geoffrey Moore shared with the audience a quick review of events that had taken place throughout this anniversary year, and then introduced the speaker.

Dr. Edelin began his remarks with a strong call to action. Every day, he explained, anti-choice members of Congress are offering amendments and engaging in back-room tactics to eliminate access to abortion services and access to Planned Parenthood health centers from health care reform legislation. "We cannot allow this to happen," he extolled our supporters. "You must pay attention and you must communicate with your elected officials!"

Dr. Edelin then took the audience back to the early 1970's and his days as a medical student and intern. He painted a vivid picture of the changing and often combustible environment of New York City, Nashville, and then Boston as the civil rights and women's reproductive rights movements were rocking the foundations of society. From the intersection of these movements came his conviction that those who oppose civil rights and those who oppose reproductive rights are all too often the same people; and that their common goal is enslavement. Edelin asserted that to deny a woman the right to

## CHOICE REMARKS

*is a publication of*UPPER HUDSON  
PLANNED PARENTHOOD

**Geoffrey Moore**  
*Chairperson,*  
*Board of Directors*

**Patricia A. McGeown**  
*President/CEO*

**Blue Carreker**  
*Editor*

UHPP  
LOCATIONS

**ALBANY**  
*Health Center/*  
*Administrative Offices*  
259 Lark Street  
Albany, NY 12210  
(518) 434-5678

**HUDSON**  
190 Fairview Avenue  
Hudson, NY 12534  
(518) 828-4675

**TROY**  
Hendrick Hudson Bldg.  
200 Broadway  
Troy, NY 12180  
(518) 274-5640

[www.uhpp.org](http://www.uhpp.org)



# President's CORNER

## From **PATRICIA A. McGEOWN, President/CEO**

UHPP's wonderful 75th Anniversary year is drawing to an end! Co-chaired by 11 former UHPP Board Chairpersons, it has been a joyful, extended celebration of all that we have achieved over the last three-quarters of a century.

We began the year with a stirring presentation by Sara Weddington on the 36th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision. Weddington, the attorney who won the Roe v. Wade case in the Supreme Court, regaled UHPP friends and supporters with a personal and riveting account of her experience as a young lawyer arguing the case that dramatically changed women's lives. Her warmth, humor and high energy set the stage for a year that honored our history and embraced our future.

In the spring, we connected with supporters throughout our communities. Once again, we shared a delightful brunch with our Columbia County friends at the Blue Plate Restaurant, hosted by long-time supporter Judy Grunberg. In April, we brought together over 60 of our former and current Board members for a reunion luncheon. Our Annual Meeting in May showcased a new category of donors, recognizing those who have contributed \$75,000 or more to UHPP. Dr. Susan Scrimshaw, the new President of The Sage Colleges, addressed us and shared her experiences working in family planning in Central America. Nearly 75 former and current staff and volunteers celebrated our 75th at an alumni event in August.

During the months of October and November, the EBA Dance Studio, Albany Law School and the Sage Colleges all hosted the UHPP photo history exhibit. This spectacular display, mounted on a 20 foot long serpentine mobile backwall, includes photos, news articles and other historic documents spanning our agency's

entire history. Mary Kahl, our longtime supporter who also authored the book "Controversy and Courage: Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood from 1934 to 2004," worked with staff to develop the original display which is regularly updated.

All during the year, we collected signatures for a full-page advertisement that congratulated UHPP on 75 years of service to the community. The ad, published in the *Times Union* on October 22, contained hundreds of names of people from throughout our service area and beyond. It was so impressive to see such a long list of friends and supporters!

Our year of activities concluded with a wonderful event at Franklin Plaza in Troy, featuring Dr. Kenneth Edlin, author of *Broken Justice: A True Story of Race, Sex and Revenge in a Boston Courtroom*. Dr. Edelin, who was arrested and tried in Boston for performing a legal abortion in the 1970s, was passionate and inspirational in his presentation. It was only fitting that our own Dr. Fred Storm was recognized and awarded UHPP's Docky Award for his dedicated and long tenured service to UHPP and women in general. The evening was a vivid reminder of how far we have come and how vigilant we must be protecting that progress.

Over the past year, we have experienced enormous pride revisiting our remarkable history and success in the face of often overwhelming obstacles. It is important to acknowledge and celebrate our past, but it is equally important to recognize how tenuous some of our successes may be. Perhaps the enormity of our success is measured in the tenacity of our opposition. As we look forward to our 76th year and beyond, we are strengthened and emboldened by our history and prepared to protect and advance those

## Seriously, Listen Up: FREE HPV VACCINES

If traveling by CDTA bus in Albany is a part of your daily routine, then during the months of November and December you will be sure to see our new UHPP marketing campaign, “Seriously, Listen Up.” Thanks to a grant from the New York State Department of Health, UHPP has partnered with Lamar Transit Advertising to promote the HPV vaccine series. The goals of this campaign are to let people know that the HPV vaccine is a safe and effective way to prevent some types of cervical cancer and genital warts and to inform them that UHPP is offering the vaccine absolutely FREE.



Women aged 19 to 25 who come in for the vaccine series will also receive a week of bus passes at no cost after their first appointment.

“This is a great opportunity for women in the Albany area,” says Dr. Christine Pluviose, UHPP Vice President for Patient Services. “It is important for women to know that the HPV vaccine is safe and effective, even for women who are already sexually active, and that UHPP is a beneficial resource for them.”

## Helping the Underserved in HUDSON

Thanks to a grant from the National Center of Minority Health and Health Disparities at the National Institutes of Health, UHPP is collaborating with the University at Albany on an exciting research project called the Women’s Health Project. The project goal identifies effective strategies to assist women in overcoming barriers to seeking reproductive health care and focuses on the city of Hudson in Columbia County. Past research has shown that many women in need of free or low cost reproductive health care services in that geographic area are not taking advantage of UHPP services.

The research team from the UAlbany is led by Professors Annis Golden and Anita Pomerantz of the Department of Communications. A field office for the Women’s Health Project will be set up at Bliss Towers and staffed by community outreach associate Jeanette Johnson. Jeanette is also collaborating with

UHPP patient services and education staff and an advisory board consisting of representatives from eight other leading community organizations. Working together, this group plans a series of community events that will include educational presentations, staffing tables by advisory board member organizations, and an opportunity to schedule appointments at UHPP. Those who need to take a taxi to get to the local UHPP health center will receive travel vouchers when they arrive for their appointments.

Members of the Community Advisory Board for the Women’s Health Project include:

Columbia County Healthcare Consortium, Columbia County Department of Health, Columbia Memorial Hospital, Columbia Opportunities, Hudson Housing Authority, Mental Health Association of Columbia-Greene Counties, Operation Unite Education and Cultural Arts Center, Overcomers Ministries International, and UHPP.

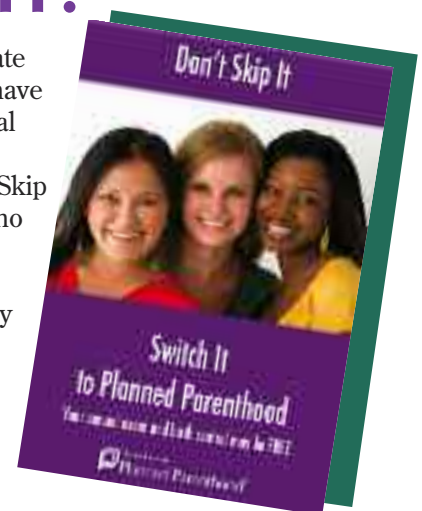


UHPP staff members Dawn Finney, Julie Pierino and Christine Pluviose schedule appointments at the event.

## Don’t Skip It – SWITCH IT!

According to the New York State Department of Labor, this summer the state’s unemployment rate climbed to its highest level since 1983. With so many people out of work, many women and men have found themselves without health insurance and have, therefore, started to put off important annual health exams and screenings. A new UHPP marketing campaign, launched in partnership with Planned Parenthood Mohawk Hudson, Inc., advises women in the greater Capital Region, “Don’t Skip It” but “Switch It to Planned Parenthood.” Free services are available to many women and men who do not have health insurance—or who have only partial insurance coverage—through the Family Planning Benefit Program. This program covers gynecological exams, Pap smear screening for cervical cancer, birth control information and supplies, and even testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs, also known as STDs) if done as a part of a birth control/family planning visit. If a UHPP enrollment counselor determines that someone is not eligible for coverage, the patient can still receive services at a reduced cost based on level of income.

As the nation’s most trusted reproductive health care provider, Planned Parenthood is committed to helping women and men get the services they need but may not be able to afford. For more information or to make an appointment, call 1.800.230.PLAN or visit us online at [www.uhpp.org](http://www.uhpp.org).



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

**NEW YORK STATE** NYS SENATE SWITCHBOARD: (518) 455-2800  
NYS ASSEMBLY SWITCHBOARD: (518) 455-4100

In mid-October, New York State Governor David Paterson announced larger-than-expected shortfalls in state revenue and asked the state legislature to enact a 10% cut, retroactive to October 1, for all state-funded programs including family planning services. He also proposed major cutbacks in Medicaid reimbursement rates.

At legislative hearings, Tracey Brooks, President/CEO of Family Planning Advocates of New York State, presented

testimony about the need to maintain access to affordable family planning services. Family planning providers such as UHPP not only provide access to affordable reproductive health care services, but also serve as critical gatekeepers to the larger health care system.

Demand for UHPP services has increased 12% in the last two years. Although we are working with Medicaid rates that are over a decade old, we are willing to work with

the state to adjust during these hard times. We are asking that legislators work with us and use a scalpel approach so we can preserve access to critical services.

**Action:** Contact your state legislator and let him or her know why we must preserve access to critical reproductive health care services. Call Sen. Neil Breslin at 455-2225; Sen. Roy McDonald at 455-2381; Sen. Stephen Saland at 455-2411; or the NYS Assembly Switchboard at 455-4100.

## IN WASHINGTON

US CAPITOL SWITCHBOARD: (202) 224-3121

## Abortion Access Threatened in Health Care Reform

From the earliest days of debate, UHPP has worked together with activists across the country to achieve two goals in health care reform: 1) To ensure that individuals will continue to be able to receive care from community health providers such as Planned Parenthood and 2) to ensure that women will have access to the full range of reproductive health services, including abortion.

At UHPP, staff, volunteers and student activists have worked together to collect almost 1,000 names on petitions and devoted hours to national phone banking. We also turned out a large and very visible contingent to greet



President Obama when he came to Hudson Valley Community College (see photos). No matter what, we told our legislators, women must not be worse off after health care reform than they were before.

As this newsletter goes to press, the House of Representatives has just passed a health care reform bill containing dangerous and far-reaching restrictions on access to abortion. The Stupak amendment goes far beyond the 1976 Hyde amendment, which dictates that federal funds can not be used to support abortion services. Now it is anticipated that even women and families who spend their own dollars may not be able to buy affordable health insurance that covers the full range of reproductive health care. This is outrageous and discriminatory. For more details on the Stupak attack go to [www.uhpp.org](http://www.uhpp.org).

## THE REAL ACT

During the week of September 27 to October 3, UHPP student groups, educators and interns participated in a National Week of Action organized by Planned Parenthood Federation of America in support of the REAL Act—a federal bill that would provide funding to support comprehensive sex education. All together, we staffed tables at six locations, provided information to over 600 people and collected 158 signatures on petitions that were then delivered to our Congressional members.

**Action:** If we do not rise up now and mobilize in an unprecedented fashion, we are in grave danger of losing this battle. Join us for a National Lobby Day in Washington on December 2 OR participate in National Campus Days of Action December 2 and 3 OR participate in phone banks targeting key legislators on December 8 and 10. Contact Blue at 434-5678 x133 or [blue@uhpp.org](mailto:blue@uhpp.org) to get involved.

## Troy Hospital MERGER

UHPP hosted a community meeting on November 12, 2009 at Emma Willard School on the topic of the proposed merger of Northeast Health, St. Peter's and Seton Health Systems in Rensselaer County.

Specifically, the meeting was called to provide an opportunity for the public to raise concerns regarding the agreement by Northeast Health that the new not-for-profit parent corporation to be formed as a result of the merger will not be Catholic but will adhere to the Ethical and Religious Directives



**Jim Reed, MD, President/CEO of Northeast Health; Ann DiSarro, Chairperson of the Board, Northeast Health; Lois Utley, MMP, Director, The Merger Watch; Ronnie Pawelko, J.D., General Counsel, Family Planning Advocates of NYS; Rev. Nina Nichols, Christ Church, United Methodist.**

(ERDs) for Catholic Health Care Services. This proposed affiliation raises significant questions about the continuity of care and the impact on access to comprehensive services, especially for women of reproductive age, for those whose gender or sexual preference is considered illegitimate by Catholic doctrine, and for those facing end-of-life decisions. For more information

about the forum and the proposed merger, go to <http://www.plannedparenthood.org/uhpp/meetings-events-27046.htm>.

## Local Clergy Training



**At All Options Training, from left to right, are Rev. Sam Trumbore, Rev. Alexandra Lusak, Diane Marquit (pastor), Rev. Miriam Lawrence Leupold, Rev. Nina Nichols, Janet Douglas (pastor), Rev. Matthew Westfox and Rev. Kim Singletary.**

On October 6, 2009, seven local clergy members participated in a UHPP-sponsored "All Options Counseling" training provided by Rev. Matthew Westfox of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice. The all-day training was designed to help clergy members respond to and support women and families facing a pregnancy that is either unwelcome or problematic. Many of the clergy who participated will now join others in a referral list our clinicians are able to provide to patients who express a need or desire for faith-based counseling.

## Membership in Pro-Choice Student Groups Explodes



**National sex education advocate Shelby Knox meets with University at Albany VOX chapter.**

Student activism for reproductive health and choice is exploding on area campuses. The University at Albany's pro-choice VOX chapter has over 50 members and has already hosted a variety of educational events. After several years of struggle, a VOX chapter has been formed at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and has hosted an escort training and advocated with the health center for better

access to contraception.

Pro-choice students at Albany Law School and Albany Medical College have hosted speakers and distributed information about UHPP services and advocacy opportunities. In October alone, we processed 21 volunteer applications from area students! If you would like to join the new student wave of volunteers, contact [rebecca@uhpp.org](mailto:rebecca@uhpp.org) or call 434-5668 x137.

## UHPP at AIDSWalk 2009!



A special thanks to the 30 UHPP staff and volunteers who participated in AIDSWalk 2009 or supported the UHPP team. Together we raised more than \$955 for HIV/AIDS services in the Capital Region. Particular thanks go to Katherine S. Bruno, Rob Curry, Chris Thompson and Lester Zaborski who each raised over \$100. Half of the total funds raised will be returned to UHPP by CARES/CAP-CR, the Walk's sponsoring organization, to support our annual participation in FREE HIV Testing Day next June.

# S.T.A.R.S. PEER EDUCATORS In Action



S.T.A.R.S. Peer Educators at the AIDS Walk with Albany Mayor Jerry Jennings.



Eli and Cristian, Albany County S.T.A.R.S. Peer Educators, with Condom Man at LarkFEST.



Albany and Columbia County S.T.A.R.S. Peer Educators at Silver Bay in the Adirondacks for an educational retreat.



Jon and Lester, Columbia County S.T.A.R.S. Peer Educators, at the Columbia County Fair with New York State Congressman Scott Murphy.

Have you seen the UHPP S.T.A.R.S. peer educators? S.T.A.R.S. stands for Seriously Talking About Responsible Sex and if you live or work in Albany or Columbia County, you might very easily run across these high-school students in their bright t-shirts doing just that—talking to teens and adults about sexual health and responsibility. Since welcoming a new group of peer educators this fall, S.T.A.R.S. activities have included staffing our table at the Columbia County Fair over Labor Day weekend, participating in the Capital Region AIDS Walk, attending the traveling production of *The Color Purple* at Proctor's Theater in Schenectady, and promoting comprehensive sex education legislation using petitions on the streets of Hudson. They even traveled to Ticonderoga in mid-October for a weekend leadership skills retreat at Silver Bay Camp.

As the year moves along the teens will begin to do classroom presentations at area middle and high schools, answer questions and conduct demonstrations at our weekly teen clinics, and provide a regular presence at community events and fairs. Every year, our peer educators interact with over 5,000 people including teens, parents, faith communities, school officials, health and human service providers, people living with HIV/AIDS, individuals with special needs, and elected officials.

All of this activity sounds like a lot of fun—and it is! But it is also part of a well researched and carefully organized approach to teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection (STI)

prevention called Positive Youth Development or PYD. PYD is an education and prevention model used by UHPP which focuses on helping young people to reach their full potential.

Gretchen Brown, UHPP's Community Based Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (CBAPP) Director, has seen the impact of PYD on many successive groups of S.T.A.R.S. peer educators. "There is more than meets the eye when you see our S.T.A.R.S. peer educators engaging youth and their family members in fun activities like our "Wheel of Choices" game. As they prepare and carry out these activities, they are developing positive work standards, gaining valuable skills such as program planning and public speaking, and learning values including responsibility, commitment and open-mindedness. They also gain a sense of connection in their community that will help them to become healthy, productive adult citizens."

Meaghan Carroll, Albany S.T.A.R.S. Peer Education Facilitator, is also a strong proponent of the PYD model. "The activities offer our teens the opportunity to plan an activity and then see the positive results. By traveling to places they have never been, and meeting new and interesting people, they learn to appreciate diversity and become open to opportunities for growth and change. When teens are learning and growing in this way—when they can see the results of their work—they begin to plan for the future and begin to make better, more thoughtful decisions about their health."

## Donor Profile: CATHIE LOVE

Cathie Love has been involved with the work and mission of Planned Parenthood since she was a child. She has been a generous donor and an active volunteer, showing her great passion and tireless dedication to Planned Parenthood in both Illinois and the Capital Region of New York State.

Cathie's involvement with Planned Parenthood started when her mother began volunteering for Planned Parenthood in Chicago. She remembers helping her mother stuff envelopes and lick stamps for mailings, and as she got older, going with her mother to state fairs in Springfield, Illinois to table for Planned Parenthood. In high school, Cathie worked as a clinic helper and bookkeeper, and was always ready to hold up signs and show support when there were protestors.

Since moving to the Capital Region, Cathie has been engaged in a variety of volunteer activities. She served on the former Public Affairs Committee and Pro-Choice Volunteers of Faith



Committee, volunteered in the UHPP Public Affairs department, and has helped plan for the current Capital Campaign. She is also the current co-chair of the Planned Parenthood Advocates of New York, Upper Hudson chapter, a separate organization which works on behalf of pro-choice candidates at the local, state and federal level. Her dedication to the Planned Parenthood mission reflects a passion for public affairs, since, as she states, "public perception and politicians have such an impact on our reproductive freedom."

Cathie is particularly excited about UHPP's proposed move to a new Albany location, feeling that it will enable the agency to provide quality health care to a wider variety of clients. As a leadership donor, she recognizes the importance of giving to UHPP and she urges others to give as well. "Planned Parenthood plays a vital role in protecting women's health and freedom," which, she is quick to remind us, "is important for everyone, not only women."

Thank you to all those who signed our signature ad to show your support for UHPP!

## Why I Joined the Board

*In each issue of Choice Remarks, we ask one or two of our current Board members to share their reasons for volunteering in a leadership role at UHPP. Our thanks to Raona Roy for her contribution to this issue.*



Raona Roy

***"The gains women have made economically and socially in the past 75 years have been dependent on the fundamental freedom to manage their reproductive choices. Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood's advocacy has been key to ensuring that those rights continue to be protected and extended to all women regardless of income. I cannot imagine what life would be like for women without UHPP's fierce and passionate stance."***

## Gifts in Tribute

*Giving tributes is a special way to remember or honor someone special, while helping others in our community. If you would like more information about tributes, please call 434-5678 x121.*

### **In memory of Dr. George Tiller**

by Margaret Hand-Miller  
Pamela Kungle  
Marjorie E. Karowe  
M. Elisabeth Grace  
Paula Auclair  
Katherine I. Moss  
Lauren J. Conway

### **In memory of Ethel Morrison**

by Marvin, Davira, and Robbie Taragin  
Mary Jo Von Bieberstein  
Catherine W. Joynson

### **In memory of Dr. Milton and Francis Myers**

by Eleanor Rosenberg

### **In memory of Ms. Freida (Fritzie) Stein**

by Ruth Dinowitz

### **In memory of Israel Rapaport**

by Eva H. Gemmill

### **In memory of Dr. Leroy Seftel**

by Ruth Dinowitz

### **In memory of Ursula Poland**

by Geraldine and Emiliios Kyriakides  
Julia Royslance  
Liselotte Hof-Weber and Peter Weber

### **In memory of Norman Brickman**

by Dorice J. Brickman

### **In honor of Martha Kissinger**

by Sandra Zwink

*This list is inclusive from January 1 to October 26, 2009.*

*Please notify us if we have made any errors and accept our apologies.*