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In This Issue

[Adults embark on multiple vocational projects](#)

[Group views, creates art at Philly Museum](#)

[Bancroft team sprints past goals for autism walk](#)

[State senator visits Bancroft](#)

[Bancroft volunteers honored](#)

[Thank you - Thank you - THANK YOU!!!](#)

[Hot off the press: Our World](#)

['Learn' offers range of adult activities this summer](#)

[Get the most out of Bancroft](#)

[Save the date: Bancroft Day is Sept. 24](#)

[Special Needs Day at garden and farm](#)

[Family fundraiser to help build accessible playgrounds](#)

[Water park offers events for kids, adults with disabilities](#)

Upcoming Events



Debbie Fox (foreground) makes candles that look like pies and other treats, with job coach Margarita Hickerson.

Adults embark on multiple vocational projects

Margarita and pie candles 'selling like hotcakes.' One group is even starting a farm.

People in Bancroft's Community Vocational Services for Adults (CVSA) are getting their hands dirty this spring - or waxy, in some cases.

The program recently launched several initiatives to provide more job and learning opportunities:

- Making whimsical "gel" candles that look like real food and drink - from martinis to pastries.
- Planting and tending a raised-bed vegetable garden (newly built by staff members Russ Pine and Andre Roualet) at our Schaefer Center in Cherry Hill, N.J.
- A ¼-acre farming project, in partnership with a Voorhees, N.J., farm.

The homemade candles "have been selling like hotcakes," says CVSA Program Director Rose Dougherty.

"Each person works with the job coach to design, melt, color, fragrance, and pour the candles and add embellishments, to look very much like the real thing," she explains. "Except it has a wick and you can't eat it!"

(To order candles or other handmade items, contact

Tuesday, June 7

8 am - 4 pm

Golf Invitational**Contact:** Debbie

Conner

Phone: (856) 524-7023**Email:**dconner@bnh.org**Monday, June 20**

7 - 8:30 pm

Bancroft School**Graduation****Contact:** Carla Riley**Phone:** (856) 524-7341**Email:** criley@bnh.org**Wednesday, June 29**

8:30 am - 12 pm

Clarence York**Lecture****Contact:** Sue Crouse**Phone:** (856) 348-4010**Email:**scrouse@bnh.org**Wednesday, June 29****Family Welcome****Orientation**

6:30 - 8:30 pm

Location: Farrington

building, Haddonfield

Campus

Contact: Kathy

Nazarok

Phone: (856) 524-7366**Email:**knazarok@bnh.org**Saturday, September****24**

10:30 am - 3 pm

Bancroft Day**Location:** Challenge

Grove Park, Cherry Hill,

NJ

Contact:

Debbie Conner

Phone: (856) 524-7023**Email:**dconner@bnh.org

Margarita Hickerson at 856-428-0685, ext. 158, or email Tanya Bailey Crosson at tbailey@bnh.org.)

Also at the Schaefer Center, adults recently planted seedlings in the newly built raised beds. "They helped with all phases," says Ms. Dougherty. "They grew and planted the seedlings, and will now water and maintain our organic vegetable garden."

We expect an abundance of tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, cucumbers, lettuce and herbs shortly - which will be used at the center's day program to teach healthy eating, fresh from the garden.

Meanwhile, the owners of Natauset Farm are allowing our program to create and maintain an organic vegetable farm on their Voorhees property. Adults supported by CVSA recently helped break ground and have started tilling the land and planting. The project is designed to help them learn farming and general work skills.

"This is an exciting partnership with the community," notes Ms. Dougherty. "We have many volunteers helping with this project, including family members, Business Advisory Committee members, interested community members, and staff."

CVSA aims for a bountiful crop this year, and hopes to eventually turn the project into a "community supported agriculture" program, which would sell produce to the local community. Such programs are becoming popular ways for consumers to buy local, seasonal food directly from farmers.

Watch for more details in the coming months.



Group views, creates art at Philly museum

Seven individuals from our Schaefer Center day program recently visited the Philadelphia Museum of Art, where they enjoyed a private tour, workshop

and lunch.

A museum staff member (center) teaches art techniques to people supported by Bancroft.

The outing centered on the fashions of Roberto Capucci, known for creating dresses with many folds. During the two-hour, accessible workshop, participants learned to fold paper into flowers.

"It was a challenging project but they all had a lot of fun and did very well," says Jenna Forziati, a Schaefer Center program manager. "This was a great opportunity for the people we support to get out into the community, and work together with community members."

Plus, the participants used their new-found skills right away: When they returned to the Schaefer Center, they made Mother's Day cards with flowers that pop up when the cards are opened.

Bancroft team sprints past goals for autism walk

Teams of walkers from across Bancroft showed up in force recently, at the South Jersey Walk Now for Autism Speaks.

In fact, we greatly surpassed our goal of 100 walkers, with 175 walkers registered online, and even more family members and friends who showed up the day of the event.



The Bancroft group beat its fundraising target, too: To date, over \$5,300 has been raised, topping the \$5,000 goal.

"This by far has been the biggest team and turn-out for all of Bancroft programs," says staff member Michelle Lee, an organizer of Bancroft's walk team. "It was fascinating to see the diverse range of programs, directors, managers, families, and staff who came together for such a great cause.

"Everywhere I looked that day I saw someone wearing a Bancroft shirt," adds Ms. Lee, "and it reminded me why I

am very proud to be a part of this organization."

Participating programs/departments were The Bancroft School, The Bancroft School at Voorhees Pediatric Facility, Community Services for Adults, Early Education Program, The Lindens, Pediatric & Adolescent Campus and Community, and Bancroft administration.

This was the tenth anniversary of the South Jersey walk, and Bancroft has been involved from the start. Before that, we traveled to the North Jersey walk. This year, 227 teams and over 4,500 walkers participated in the South Jersey event.

Since 2002, the South Jersey walk has raised over \$290,000, and aims for \$383,000 by year-end.

Watch for updates on total amounts raised by Bancroft and by the walk overall.

State senator visits Bancroft



N.J. Sen. James Beach (third from right) meets with Ingrid Foster (seated), and staff members from Bancroft and Walmart.

N.J. State Senator James Beach (District 6 - Camden) recently visited Bancroft, to better understand our programs and how we help people.

Bancroft President Toni Pergolin and VP for Government Relations Dan Keating provided the tour, which included a

stop at Walmart in Marlton. There, Mr. Beach met Ingrid Foster - who is supported by Bancroft and works at the store.

"We wanted Senator Beach to see that making this 'One World for Everyone' starts with giving people respected roles in the community," says Dr. Keating.

Senator Beach observed Ms. Foster interacting with Walmart customers, in her position as a greeter. He also spoke with store managers, who said they appreciate opportunities to hire people with disabilities, as well as the support Bancroft provides.

Senator Beach also spoke with Zoubir Bittout, a Bancroft direct-support professional, who shared his enthusiasm for his work. Plus, Mr. Bittout praised the College of Direct Support -- a training curriculum funded by the state - for its many benefits to our staff members and the people we support.

"We wanted Senator Beach to hear first-hand the value of this program and understand that the state dollars are used efficiently and effectively," notes Dr. Keating.

"Senator Beach was very interested in Bancroft and wanted to know ways that he could support our mission as an elected representative."

For more information on Bancroft's government relations activities, contact Dr. Keating at (856) 524-7372 or dkeating@bnh.org.



Community members who volunteer at Bancroft gather at our recent Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. For more photos from the evening, [click here](#).

Bancroft volunteers honored

Greta Kindermann has supported our school phys-ed program every Thursday for 10 years.

Mary Lynn Ricketts -- a "Friend of Bancroft" since 1991 - volunteers in our school library, sells raffle tickets, and helps with many other projects.

A group of high school students called **Quixote Quest** spends Sunday evenings at "gym night" with children who live on our Haddonfield Campus.

These and scores of other volunteers enhance our programs in many ways. Recently, we honored them all during our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.

Receiving special recognition at the event:

Barbara Berkman, who received our Volunteer of the Year award. Ms. Berkman is the mother of Jillian, a young woman served in our Community Services for Adults program. "Barbara gets the prize for the number of different volunteer jobs that could be done simultaneously!" said award-presenter and volunteer Joe Atkinson. "She has helped Bancroft in so many ways, we could easily lose count."

Indeed, Ms. Berkman and her husband Sheldon have served as Butterfly Ball co-chairs for several years, helping to make the event more successful than ever. She also served as president of the Bancroft Family Council, as a member of the board's Program Committee, and on the Bancroft Rehabilitation Services Board of Trustees. Ms. Berkman has not only been one of our most active volunteers, but one of our best ambassadors - never hesitating to tell others about Bancroft and why they should support the organization.

Kimberly Fenton, who received our Volunteer Manager of the Year award for coordinating the gym nights, which have benefitted both our students and the local high school student volunteers in many ways.

Joseph Atkinson, who had served as the chairman of the Bancroft Board of Trustees until recently, when he was required to step down due to term limits.

Donald Roberts, who was similarly required to end his term as chairman of the board of Bancroft Rehabilitation Services, which oversees our Lindens Program.

All Bancroft board positions are unpaid, yet critical to the organization's mission. During the dinner, Bancroft President Toni Pergolin thanked Mr. Atkinson and Mr. Roberts for their dedication and commitment.

Mr. Roberts has been involved with Bancroft since the late 1980s. He joined our board in 1992, and has continued his support all these years, as has his employer, USI MidAtlantic - a Bancroft donor.

Ms. Pergolin acknowledged Mr. Atkinson, in particular, for "helping to keep a new president from drowning, when she was merely trying to get her feet wet."

Mr. Atkinson joined Bancroft's board just prior to Ms. Pergolin's arrival, serving as her friend, mentor, and an extraordinary board chairman, she noted.

Mr. Atkinson expressed his appreciation and pride for the work being done at Bancroft, on behalf of his daughter Casey and many others.

"We are a human service organization," he said, "which is all about the people we support. It's the human factor that drives us - the volunteers, the staff, the members of the board. One thing we all share is the human drive to make things better."

Thank you to all our volunteers for making things better at Bancroft, every day!

**Thank you - Thank you -
THANK YOU!!!**

*Families donate record funds - again - for Staff
Appreciation Prizes!*

Bancroft families have outdone themselves once again - donating over \$13,000 in cash and gifts for this year's

Staff Appreciation Prize Drawing, and besting last year's record \$10,000 in contributions.

"We greatly appreciate our families' generous support of our staff," says Bancroft President Toni Pergolin. "This wonderful outpouring shows our staff how deeply they are valued by the families of those they work with each day."

Thanks to families' generosity, 175 staff members will receive prizes at this year's Staff Festivals, through random drawings. Family members themselves distribute the prizes at the festivals, held this week in Cherry Hill and next week in Mullica Hill.

[Click here](#) for a list of staff members who are receiving prizes.

A giant thank you again to all who contributed!!



Hot off the press: Our World

The latest issue of *Our World*, Bancroft's printed newsletter, is chock full of interesting, informative and inspiring stories.

Like that of 9-year-old **Robbie Davis** - a boy diagnosed with autism as a toddler, but who now blends right in with his neighborhood friends.

Or **Dan Livecchi**, 44, who is triumphing over his brain injury with Bancroft's help.

Don't want to wait for the print edition? [Click here](#) for the electronic version.

Do you have family members or friends who'd like to join our print or electronic mailing lists? Please have them call Sue Crouse in Bancroft's Communications Office at (856) 348-4010 or email scrouse@bnh.org.

'Learn' offers range of adult

activities this summer

Registration deadline is June 10

Bancroft offers adults (age 18 and up) in our programs a wide range of fun and educational opportunities through LEARN - our Life Enrichment and Recreational Network. But hurry if you're interested -- registration for summer LEARN programs ends next week.

These courses and activities are designed to increase intellectual, physical and socialization skills as well as promote leisure, independence and personal enjoyment through participation in the program. All classes are held at our Jacob Schaefer Center in Cherry Hill, N.J., unless otherwise stated. Cost is minimal -- from free to \$35 -- with many activities priced at just \$5 or \$10.

Participants can choose from classes in creative arts, fun and fitness, healthy cooking, hobbies and leisure, musical arts, and personal development. Also included in the network are social events, club activities and Special Olympics opportunities.

To view the LEARN summer catalog, [click here](#).

Get the most out of Bancroft

Come to our Family Welcome Orientation, June 29

School's almost out, but you can still learn all about Bancroft at our next Family Welcome Orientation, Wed. June 29.

Scheduled from 6:30 to 8:30 pm in the Farrington Building on our Haddonfield Campus, the orientation will help you better understand the organization, and teach you how to maximize your family's opportunities at Bancroft.

RSVPs are requested by June 23. For more information or to RSVP, contact Dr. Dan Keating, vice president of family services and government relations, at (856) 524-7366 or email KNazarok@bnh.org.

Save the date: Bancroft Day is Sept. 24

Our annual Bancroft Day festival will be held on Saturday Sept. 24 - earlier than usual, in hope of having warmer weather.

Festivities will again be at Challenge Grove Park in Cherry Hill, N.J. - just a short distance from our Haddonfield Campus.

Watch for more details soon!

Special Needs Day at garden and farm this Sunday

Popes' Gardens, a ten-acre working farm and plant nursery in Waterford, N.J, will host a free Special Needs Family Day on Sunday June 5, from 10 am to 2 pm. (Rain date is Sun. June 12.)

Activities will include a plant potting workshop, horseback riding demonstration, animals to see and touch, a garden tour and more. Visitors are welcome to bring a blanket and picnic lunch, and enjoy the bucolic setting. Drinks will be available for purchase.

The business is owned and operated by Jim Pope - Bancroft's head groundskeeper in the early to mid-1980s - and his wife, Joan.

Mr. Pope claims to have "the best selection of perennials in South Jersey," with 750 varieties, and even more types of annuals, as well as trees, shrubs and more. He offers four acres of plants for sale.

For more details on the event, [click here](#).

On the web, visit popesgardens.com.

Family fundraiser to help build accessible playgrounds

Former Bancroft family spearheads the effort

A South Jersey charity wants to build all-access playgrounds - and they're asking for everyone's help.

Build Jake's Place will host "Relay for Play / Family Fun Day" on Sat. June 11, to help build their first "boundless" playground at Challenge Grove Park - a short distance from our Haddonfield campus. The charity also has another connection to Bancroft: it's named for a little boy who was served in our Early Intervention Program, and who passed away in 2007.

The event, from 8 am to noon, will feature a walk, kid-friendly entertainment, food and more, at Cooper River Park in Camden County. Build Jake's Place must raise \$100,000 and begin construction by November, in order to receive a \$50,000 grant from CVS.

"Walk, form a team, ask your friends to support you...or sponsor one of our volunteers," requests Kate Cummings, Jake's mom and co-founder of Build Jake's Place.

To register or for more details, visit www.buildjakesplace.org.

Water park offers events for kids, adults with disabilities

Sahara Sam's indoor water park in West Berlin, N.J., will host two events for people with disabilities in June:

- Special Needs Night - Friday June 3, 6 - 9:30 pm
- Mix It Up (for people ages 18 and up) - Sunday June 26, 7:30 - 10 pm

About Special Needs Night

The water park will be closed to the general public and open exclusively to guests with special needs, as well as their families and friends. All water features will be open, with the exception of the indoor surfing simulator. The lights and sounds will be controlled and guests with special dietary needs can bring their own snacks. The café will be open as well.

For a flyer, [click here](#). To purchase tickets, [click here](#). To make group reservations, email Beth at Btwisler@sahasams.com.

About Mix It Up

This mixer for guests 18 and older with disabilities will be held in the "upscale lounge." Water features will be purely for ambiance. Sahara Sam's is also looking for volunteers to help plan this event, and welcomes input.

For more information, call Marcy Edwards at (856) 767-7580, ext. 106



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