

OUR 20TH YEAR!



# HABITAT HAPPENINGS

50 Dietz St., Suite M, Oneonta, NY 13820 607-432-7874 hfhoc@verizon.net www.HabitatOtsego.com

## Founder's Day celebrated on May 3: Seventy guests gathered; laughter, memories, and sentiment abound

*A picture's worth a thousand words, so we've loaded this issue with photos from our first-ever Founder's Day celebration. Three plaques were unveiled, each honoring people who have been instrumental in contributing to HFHOC's twenty years of success. If you weren't there, this should make you feel as if you were. More pictures are shown on page 4. Enjoy!*

[A complete list of inductees is on Page 2.](#)



*Pictured above are honorees named on the "Founder's Plaque" (L-R) Kay Stuligross, Rev. Norman Tiffany, and representing the late Greg Visnosky, his wife Judi, daughter Hannah, and son Jonathan.*



*"Friends and Benefactors" are people who have consistently contributed their time, money, and support over the years. Pictured above are Peggy Fowler (kneeling), L-R Don Wheeler, Bill Safarik, Ellen (Mrs. Pete) Bonhote, Susan Melchior, Franzi (Mrs. Heinz) Kuhne, Adele Johnson, Rich Tyler, and Bruce Shultis.*



*Julia Evans, President 1997-1999, reads a letter from Ella V. Griffin, widow of affiliate founder Reese Griffin. She wrote, "It is hard to believe that it has been 20 years since that first meeting...for Reese, it was a dream come true. Reese was [also] involved in the organizing of Habitat in Delaware, Broome, and Chenango Counties. I still work at the Re-sale Store [for Thermal Belt, North Carolina HFH]. 'Habitatters' everywhere are special people."*



*"Movers and Shakers" are people who have consistently taken on affiliate leadership roles over the years. Pictured above L-R are Jim Pasternak, Bill Triolo, Bill O'Dea, Marge Pietrafacc, Tom Norris, Marie Hegeman, Bruce Downie, Barbara Dauria, Mike Donahue, and Emery Herman.*



## Writings on the Wall

By Jeanne Miller, President

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Have you ever joined a gym or started an exercise program and found that your motivation and participation flagged after a few weeks or months? Sure, there are those very dedicated people who can keep going for years but the rest of us mortals need some help. Exercise experts always advise that we change our routine in order to keep ourselves interested, motivated, and participating.

The same may be true of our volunteer work for Habitat or other community organizations. If you are feeling a bit burned out in the work that you're doing, maybe it's nature's way of telling you that it's time for a change!

In Habitat for Humanity of Otsego County, we have so many ways of volunteering that you could keep yourself working happily for many years. All of our committees – Construction, Family Selection, Family Support, Fund Raising, Publicity, and Volunteer – welcome new members and it's okay with us if you change your committee membership.

Serving on the HFHOC Board of Directors is a great way to get the big picture of the organization and its future. If you have served a term on the Board in the past, I invite you to participate again. No matter how hard we try to maintain our collective memory of past initiatives, there's no substitute for all of you who bring those memories with you.

Our latest venture is the First Annual HFHOC Golf Tournament that will debut on July 12. Even if you have never set foot on a golf course, we have fun things for you to do. We need volunteers throughout the year to raise our profile with the public and raise money. In the past year, I have marched in a parade, sat at the HFHOC table at the July 4<sup>th</sup> picnic, and served food at Wightman's Lumber. I'm adding the golf tournament to my list for this year.

If you want more information about volunteering, go to our website at [www.habitatotsego.org](http://www.habitatotsego.org) or contact any of the Board members who are listed in this newsletter.



**Sharing fifteen years of history are the last five Board Presidents: Bruce Downie (1999-2001), Jeanne Miller (2008-present), Julia Evans (1997-1998), Marie Hegeman (2002-2004), and Tom Norris (2005-2008). Whether you have institutional memories to contribute, or enthusiasm and a fresh point of view, we'd love to have you join us.**

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF OTSEGO COUNTY FOUNDER'S WALL HONOREES MAY 3, 2009

### CHARTER MEMBERS

*Reese Griffin, Founder*  
*Bob Comstock*  
*Pam Comstock*  
*Flora Beth Cunningham*  
*Jerry Kabat*  
*Kay Stuligross*  
*Norm Tiffany*  
*Greg Visnosky*

### FRIENDS AND BENEFACTORS

*Pete Bonhote*  
*Ralph Chamberlain*  
*Liecha Collins*  
*Leslie Craigmyle*  
*Brett Fisk*  
*Peggy Fowler*  
*Betty Goodspeed*  
*Adele Johnson*  
*Dick Jump*  
*Heinz Kuhne*  
*Susan Melchior*  
*Dennis Murray*  
*Linda Randall*  
*Bill Safarik*  
*Bruce Shultis*  
*Nick Tarantelli*  
*Bill Triolo*  
*Rich Tyler*  
*Sue Vroman*  
*Colleen Webb*  
*Jack Weber*  
*Don Wheeler*

### MOVERS AND SHAKERS

*Pete Axhoj*  
*Bob Beken*  
*Norrie Beken*  
*Barbara Dauria*  
*Mike Donahue*  
*Mary Ann Dowdell*  
*Bruce Downie*  
*Julia Evans*  
*Marie Hegeman*  
*Emery Herman*  
*Tom Norris*  
*Bill O'Dea*  
*Jim Pasternak*  
*Dick Peinkofer*  
*Marjorie Pietrafacc*  
*Alton Van Cleef*

What's happening? The latest news from HFHOC

# 1ST ANNUAL HABITAT FOR HUMANITY *Golf Tournament*



1:00 PM JULY 12, 2009

(RAIN DATE: JULY 19)

BUFFET DINNER AT 6:00

**\$15,000 CASH PRIZE**  
**HOLE IN ONE CONTEST!**

Every player receives a **FREE** golf bag or club  
Plus many more prizes goodies & events

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
THE ONEONTA COUNTRY CLUB PRO SHOP AT 432-8950  
OR RICH COUCH AT 433-0575

**LIMITED TO 20 TEAMS!**

4 PERSON SCRAMBLE FORMAT

*Entry fee: \$340.00 per team, includes buffet dinner.  
Make checks payable to the Oneonta Country Club.*

*Send entry form to:  
Oneonta Country Club  
8 Country Club DR  
Oneonta, NY, 13820*



I want to support Habitat for Humanity of Otsego County by:

- Playing in the Tournament. Cost: \$340.00. Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Team Members: \_\_\_\_\_
- Attending the Dinner Only. Cost: \$30.00. Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Direct Donation. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

**What's happening? The latest news from HFHOC**  
*More Founder's Day Photos - maybe you're in one!*



## Ain't too Proud to Beg

Really, we ain't. This is a list of stuff that we sure wish we had. If you are of a mind to donate any of these things, we'd be proud to take it. And remember, your donations are tax-deductible and we can supply you with a receipt. *Call our office at 432-7874 and Trish will gladly talk with you about how you can help.*



### *Pennies from Heaven:*

We're always grateful to receive ca\$h, in any amount.



**Food and Shelter:** We urgently need refreshments for our laborers. **Lunches**, morning snacks, and cases of bottled water, juice, iced tea, lemonade, and sports beverages would be terrific.



A gift of **LAND** – we need building lots all around Otsego County. Donations are great, but if you have some land you'd like to sell, we may buy it if the location and price are right.



We need people to volunteer behind the scenes on our family, fundraising, public relations, and volunteer committees. And people for our Board of Directors. For a relatively small donation of your time, you will receive a world of fun and friendship in return.

We would like a person who has the experience and contacts to promote us to local and county governments.

We would also like a person with photo/video experience who could develop a promotional video.

And if you have specific building skills to bring to the site (and maybe a desire to teach or lead a small crew) – wow!



### Awl About Us

Habitat for Humanity International was founded on Christian principles as a housing partnership that welcomes everyone, regardless of religion, to work toward our goal of a world without poverty housing. The Otsego County affiliate was founded in 1989. Since then, we have built 25 houses in Otsego County, and contribute to HFHI so that everyone in the world can someday own a simple, decent, affordable home.

We build on Thursdays and Saturdays, and everyone is welcome to help. Don't worry if you don't have skills; bring a willingness to learn and we'll teach you. **Our construction supervisor is Jon Edgington.**

OR, you can volunteer with one of the many committees that work behind the scenes.

Our Board meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at Elm Park UM Church, Chestnut Street in Oneonta, at 7pm. Stop by and learn more about what we're doing! Our officers and directors are:

President: Jeanne Miller  
 Vice-President: Mike Donahue  
 Secretary: Kirsten Wolfe  
 Treasurer: Peggy Fowler  
 Assistant Treasurer: Mary Ann Dowdell

Board members: Carole Alicino, Barbara Dauria, Bruce Downie, Emily Emsberger, Janie Forrest-Glotzer, Marie Hegeman, Karen Joest, Bill O'Dea, Norm Tiffany, Alton Van Cleef, Steve Walsh, Bruce Ward, and Cecilia Zapata.

**Our office manager is Trish Dukes.**

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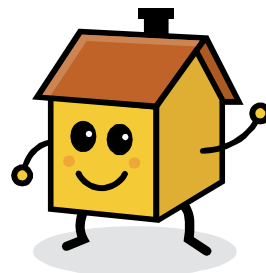
**What's happening? The latest news from HFHOC**



**Happy New House!** Tim and Sherie Blake are the proud owners of a new house on North Seventh Street in Oneonta. The closing took place on May 8. Joining the Blakes in smiles (photo right) are HFHOC Treasurer Peggy Fowler, Assistant Treasurer Mary Ann Dowdell, attorney Thomas Hegeman, who handled the closing, Jack Foster, Program Manager of Otsego Rural Housing Assistance Inc., (featured in our Spring issue), and HFHOC President Jeanne Miller. Tim and Sherie, here's wishing you many joyful years!



Representatives from the SUNY Oneonta Habitat affiliate were guests at our May Board meeting. The Board presented the affiliate with Certificates of Appreciation for their construction, fundraising, and lunch providing work through the school year. In the photo at left, campus advisor Karen Joest is shown presenting a certificate to outgoing president, senior Kimberly Bickoff, while co-advisor Kirsten Wolfe, HFHOC Vice-President Mike Donahue, and Board member Norm Tiffany look on. Also attending, shown in photo at right, (L-R), were Affiliate Liaison Lisa LaRoque, Building Chair Sarah Sieminski, Public Relations Chair Emily Legault, and Treasurer Emily Vivyan.



Harriet Mohamed, her husband Alfred Andrea, and their daughters were joined by a large group of friends and supporters at their home dedication on April 26. Manuella's speech is on the back cover of this issue. We shared thoughts, prayers, sang a bit, and afterward went indoors for wonderful refreshments. It was a lovely day!

**Left something behind? Call our office if either of these belongs to you:**

- 1) Navy blue/possibly black, hooded front zipper sweatshirt. "USA Olympic" brand. Size: "LT/GL".
- 2) Light gray hooded pull-over sweatshirt. Logo on front: *ATM Academic Team Member. SUNY College at Oneonta.* Brand: "Gildan Ultra Blend Heavyweight". Size: M. In front pouch/pocket: very nice pair of small black knit gloves, which expand to adult size.



**On the Level**

By Marie Hegeman, Editor

On March 21, I volunteered to cook, deliver, and serve lunch for the house we were doing on Monroe Ave. I brought along my camera and was glad I did because, in a surprising coincidence, all but one of the volunteers who worked that day were women! So instead of a column, I decided to share some photos and stories from our unplanned *Habitat Women Build*. **Think about this, as we reflect on our 20<sup>th</sup> year: we've been building houses since before some of these volunteers were born!**



**All hands on deck:** Shown front to back are April Hennesy, Meghan Luedke, and Kelsey Riley, all students at SUNY Oneonta. They are working on fastening the front stairs to the house. "Seven of us came here today – we're all friends, and we thought this would be fun." Judging from the smiles, it looks like they thought right!



Volunteer Don Houser developed a plan with Board member Carole Alicino to help our environment. "We noticed how much disposable products were going into the trash after our lunches," Don said. "So we bought inexpensive dishes and flatware, and I bring them home and wash them for the next work day."



Some local women are frequent worksite volunteers. Here, Cooperstown resident Sara DeGaetano is measuring in preparation for installing kitchen cabinet door handles. Sara began working with us in January.



Our newest future homeowners, Lisa and her daughter Chelsea Foster, take a break to smile. Construction on their new home in Milford is slated to start later this year. Come along and help!



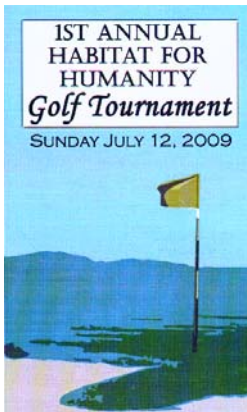
Rock on: Chelsea Foster, helped by SUNY Oneonta students Amanda Metzler and Amanda Brown, start working on creating the gravel driveway. At the back, construction supervisor Jon Edgington can be seen instructing Lisa Foster on use of the table saw.



Shirley Barker is shown caulking the bathtub. Shirley, from Worcester, heard about us from a co-worker who volunteered. She started over the winter, saying, "I just always wanted to do this." She complimented construction supervisor Jon Edgington, saying that he's a lot of fun – "He gives out gold stars for a good job, and today he let me hand out the stars!"



Andrea Pietruch, front, and Alexis Margulis work on painting a bedroom outside the bathroom where Shirley is working. They are two of the seven SUNY Oneonta students present today.



Details inside!!

## Manuella's Speech For Sunday

Welcome brothers + sisters. It is really awesome to have you here. Gathering and to witness our New House in Oneonta.

With the great job and the great cooperation and volunteering for this house and also with all your help and Prayers, we are able to live here today.

So we would like to thank the Habitat Humanity group. Volunteers, all those who work together to make this happen.

We are very happy of living in our own house and enjoying what this house means to us therefore, once again welcome brothers + sisters. The house is your house be free and have fun.

Now it is time for us to help our self w/ water + food. Thank you very much.

**Text of the speech given by Manuella Andrea, daughter of homeowners Alfred Andrea and Harriet Mohamed, during their new house dedication on April 26. This is why we do what we do.**