

**MINUTES OF THE AGING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2006 AT THE
HEBREW HOME FOR THE AGED
5901 PALISADE AVENUE**

PRESENT

Karen Pesce
Carmon Lopez
Yhatrid Algarin
Sue Tozzi
Lisa Beehner
Robert Abbott
Adrea Marais
Ciel Gordet
Julia Schwartz-Leeper
Anthony Creaney

AFFILIATION

Committee Chairperson, CB#8
Riverdale Mental Health
Innovative Services for Seniors, RMHA
BJCC-In House Services
Bronx Jewish Community Council
CB#8
Hebrew Home at Riverdale
ARC
Riverdale Senior Services
CB#8

1. Speaker: June Bingham Birge, establishment of Trained Liaison Comforters, TLC, at New York Presbyterian Hospital

History: 20 yrs. ago Mrs. Bingham Birge identified a need to expedite information and access to the Intensive Care Unit for friends and relatives of the hospitalized. After more than a year of trying to get support from the "right" hospital department she met with the head of patient relations and was able to establish a volunteer group to meet those waiting in the ICU waiting room to help communication between them and hospital staff. A grant was written in cooperation with several hospital specialties to identify purpose and scope of the program and to publish a pamphlet acknowledging family needs. The pamphlet, "You and the ICU" will be available for Committee members. Hospital staff were taught that the purpose of the new program was to help family members, coping with the experience and to provide visitors for those who had none, and not to be involved with patients' care. Today, volunteers meet as a reinforcement group periodically after initial training with other volunteers. Volunteers maintain a log of contacts for each 3 hour shift. Volunteers are always needed, 20-80 years of age.

Hebrew Home has a program which matches staff people with Residents who have few if any visitors.

2. Minutes: corrected to show attendee from BJC as Lisa Beehner. Minutes Approved.

3. Reports:

- a. AARP: alert for seniors about home improvement scams with payments made in advance of service with no later work or no completion. Also, once monthly there will be lobbying trips to Albany.
- b. Riverdale Senior Services: a juried art show is now in progress until mid-June. Public is invited. Instructional programs are available on a sliding fee scale; there are trips, support programs opportunities for the visually impaired.
- c. Hebrew Home will host its first summer concert on the lawn 6/15 at 6 PM with Lou Cristy performing.
- d. Methodist Home For Aged will sponsor a Health Fair, open to public, 6/2/06, 10-3 PM. Included will be mammography, glucose testing, reps. of Providing services to the older population.

NO JUNE MEETING; SEE YOU IN THE FALL-Tuesday, 9/26/06 at 3:30 PM. Location to be announced.

Submitted by
Karen Pesce, Chairperson