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The Acorn

Celebrating 52 Years of Publication



The Valley Hospital Auxiliary Est. 1944
service • volunteering • fundraising

GLITZ & GLAMOUR—

The 77th Annual Valley Ball was a great success, raising more than \$200,000 thanks to our loyal and generous sponsors, donors and guests.

Seasons in Washington Township did a spectacular job, adding to the glamour of the event—the cocktail hour with passed hors d'oeuvres and numerous food stations were out of this world and the three-course dinner, including an abundance of passed desserts, amazed everyone.

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Donna Mainardi Singer
President, The Valley
Hospital Auxiliary

I hope you and your family had a wonderful holiday season and I wish you the best in the coming year. The year 2025 was quite a ride for VHA. Take a look at what we accomplished as we completed our \$3.1 million pledge and moved into our next pledge:

VHA: A Year of Milestones

- Completed \$3.1 million pledge to support Pediatric ED and *Butterflies*
- Distributed 200+ no-sew plush blankets to hospitalized patients
- Hosted 52nd Golf Outing at RCC: raising over \$200k
- Hosted 77th Valley Ball at Seasons: raising more than \$200k
- Hosted 36th Annual Tree of Light Ceremony at the new Valley Hospital: raising over \$20k
- Unique fundraisers and get-togethers hosted by VHA's 10 branches
- Employee Branch hosted 5th Sporting Clays Classic: raising over \$90k
- Brunch by the Lake at ITC, welcoming new members
- Distributed 21 student scholarships
- Managed "Especially for You Cart" in the hospital
- Co-sponsored The Paramus Run raising over \$29k
- Donated \$12,000 in gift cards to Adopt-a-Family program for *Butterflies* children



In November 2025, VHA members donated \$300,000 towards our new \$1.6 million pledge.

Many thanks to all our members who work tirelessly to offer innovative events and initiatives in support of our pledge to The Valley Hospital. Your dedication is critical in helping Valley continue to provide state-of-the-art care to our community.

Save these 2026 dates:

- **Allendale Branch Music Trivia Night, Wednesday, March 11**—Trinity Episcopal Church, Allendale
- **Ramsey Branch St. Patrick's Day Lunch, Thursday, March 12**—The Shannon Rose, Ramsey
- **No-Sew Sewing Circle, Monday, March 16**—Franklin Lakes Ambulance Corp building
- **Franklin Lakes Branch 4th Annual Pocketbook Bingo, Thursday, April 30**—St. Leon's Armenian Church, Fair Lawn
- **Ridgewood Branch Spring Mother's Day, Spring Tea & Boutique, May 5**—Ridgewood Country Club
- **Wanaque Branch Lilac Luncheon, Tuesday, May 12**—Skylands Manor
- **Butterfly Release, Saturday, May 30**—Dorothy B. Kraft Building, Paramus
- **53rd Annual VHA Golf Outing, Monday, June 1**—Ridgewood Country Club
- **Flag Day, Friday, June 12**—Bedrin Flag Pole Garden, The Valley Hospital, Paramus, NJ
- **Annual VHA Luncheon, Thursday, June 18**—Indian Trail Club
- **6th Annual Sporting Clays Classic, Monday, August 31**—Hudson Farm Club, Andover, NJ
- **Brunch at the Lake, Thursday, September 16**—Indian Trail Club

Visit www.valleyhealth.com/services/auxiliary for more information.



In Loving Memory



This past year, we suddenly lost a dear member of The Valley Hospital Auxiliary—Nancy Davidson. Nancy passed away in November 2025. She was VHA president from 2010 to 2012; co-chair of the Franklin Lakes Branch for several years and a major contributor to branch activities. She also served as a Patient Family Ambassador in the new hospital. Nancy loved every minute of her involvement with Valley and the Auxiliary. Nancy had lots of friends and shared countless joyful moments enjoying dinners and traveling together. She will be remembered for her warm and welcoming smile and her talent to make any gathering very special.

Nancy is survived by her husband, Robert; daughters Tammy, Corrie, and Megan; and grandchildren Brendan, Emily, Madaline, Grace, and Makai. She is deeply missed by her family, friends, and all who knew her.

The Heart-Warming Annual Teddy Bear Party

On September 20, 2025, Valley Home Care's *Butterflies* hosted 48 families at their annual teddy bear party. VHA volunteers helped out with check-in and other activities. Upon leaving, each child received an adorable teddy bear donated for the event. Thanks go out to Rose Ranuro and her staff for arranging this fun-filled event for the *Butterflies* families.



Left to right, VHA members Charlotte Byrne, VP VHA Volunteer Resources, and Lorraine DeLuca and Gilda Gilmartin, Midland Park Regional Branch Chairs.

The Teddy Bear Party Committee



Keep up with VHA Social Media

The VHA is on Facebook and Instagram. Just search for "The Valley Hospital Auxiliary."

Remember to email Gabrielle Winnert, Social Media Chair at gdwsaw@verizon.net with information about your branch events. She will be happy to post it.

Visit www.valleyhealth.com/services/auxiliary for in-depth information about VHA.



The Acorn
Editor:
Elaine Heimberger
Co-Editor:
Denise Downey
Graphic Designer:
Annette Ricciardi



The 46th Annual Paramus Run—October 19, 2025

This annual event, in partnership with the Terri Roemer Paramus Run, proved to be a great success for VHA. There were nearly 1500 participants of all ages and the event raised over \$29,000 towards our pledge, focusing on the Butterflies program. We were also thrilled to have Karteek Bhavsar, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Valley Health System,

serve as the leader of the 5K Walk. Our sincere gratitude goes out to our Presenting Sponsor, La Bella Roma Pizzeria & Ristorante. Thanks also to the Paramus Run committee: Kathy Ambrose, Barbara Mills, Chair, and Gabrielle Winnert for their hard work. We hope you'll join us this year on Sunday, October 18, 2026.



(L to R): Megan Fraser, Meera Bhavsar, Karteek Bhavsar, Mary Collins, Chelsea Benell

Standing back row (L to R): Michelle Duran, Bette Moore, Gerry Pehush, Nancy Ruffino, Connie Byrne, Judy Tamburro, Karteek Bhavsar, Barbara Mills, Chair, Meera Bhavsar, Mary Collins, Kathy Ambrose, Ann Swist

Front row, kneeling down (L to R): Jessa Henry, Pam DeFeo, Jane Jones



The Annual Tree of Light Illumination Ceremony—December 7, 2025

The Tree of Light illumination ceremony, held on December 7, 2025 in the main lobby of The Valley Hospital, was a joyous occasion and a truly special gathering for our community. The Auxiliary extends heartfelt thanks to our speakers—Bettyann Kempin, VP, Administration, Valley Health System; Donna Mainardi Singer, VHA President, and David Bohan, VP and Chief Philanthropy Officer, TVH Foundation. Their inspiring words uplifted all in attendance. We were also delighted by the Paramus High School Choir and Orchestra, who filled the air with beautiful holiday music. Due to the collective effort of everyone who purchased stars or lights in honor or memory of a loved one, we raised over \$20,000 to support our \$1.6 million pledge.

A special round of applause goes to Mary Seminara and her dedicated Tree of Light committee for their hard work in making this annual event possible and ensuring that all donors were acknowledged. Thanks also to Bonnie Dalal, VHA Coordinator, for creating the Tribute Book of donors and the people they honored or memorialized.



Tree of Light committee: Seated left to right: Donna Mainardi Singer, Judy Smith, Mary Seminara, Chair. Standing left to right: Claire McClellan, Elaine Arezzo, Nora McAvey, Catherine Grasso, Patricia Judge, Carol Gillespie



Standing left to right Bettyann Kempin, Mary Seminara, Donna Singer, David Bohan

Continued from page 1

GLITZ & GLAMOUR— the 77th Annual Valley Ball

The entertainment by the Craig Scott Band got everyone on the dance floor. The Sinatra crooner was an unexpected surprise.

And now for the glitz: an exclusive silent auction of the “Déjà Vu” diamond. This 1.9 carat diamond pendant was won by a former Valley employee and current member of The Franklin Lakes Branch, in a 2014 raffle commemorating the 70th anniversary of VHA. Appraised at \$7,000, it sold for \$4,000.

SAVE THE DATE—
November 13, 2026
for the 78th Annual Valley Ball
at the Pleasantdale Chateau
in West Orange, NJ,
a gorgeous and unique venue.

To view our generous sponsors for the Sporting Clays, the Paramus Run and the Valley Ball, please see page 10.



Fundraising Events

5th Annual Sporting Clays Classic

On August 25, 2025 at Hudson Farm in Andover, NJ, the Employee Branch held its very popular fundraiser, which brought in more than \$90,000. The event featured morning and afternoon shooting sessions, followed by dinner at the Crow’s Nest. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to FMG General Contracting Co., Inc., our Premier Sponsor, for their generosity and to all our sponsors.



*Sporting Clays Classic committee:
Left to right: Margaret Scancarello,
Bonnie Dalal, Joe Lorino,
and Sandy Carapezza*



*Joe Lorino, VP Facilities Management,
Valley Health System, and event chair,
with representatives from sponsor
HDR Architects and Engineers.*

The Valley Hospital Auxiliary Pledge

Proceeds from all VHA events benefit their \$1.6 million pledge to support and enhance patient care and comfort in the treatment of cancer, pregnancy-induced hypertension and the *Butterflies* program for critically ill children.

Military Bridge

Held on October 30, 2025 at the Apple Ridge Clubhouse, this event, sponsored by the Mahwah Branch, welcomed 50 bridge players. Together with fees, donations and the silent auction, the branch raised \$2,700. Ten games were played with two teams tying at 19 total flag points each, resulting in our first ever play-off! Team “Darlington” won and each of their table players received a bottle of wine, wine coaster and wine glasses. The least scoring team won a deck of cards!



Gals Part 4—The Fun Continues

On November 14, 2025 the Midland Park Regional Branch welcomed 80 guests to their annual “hoedown.” Kicked off by the Valley Chicks, attendees enjoyed square dancing led by a professional caller, line dancing and delicious food.

The Valley Chicks, left to right: Lorraine DeLuca, Linda Masinda, Gilda Gilmartin, Denise Salto, Bobby Burgess, Anne Russo, Stacy Buchmann, Sheila Bernstein



Italian Region Wine Tasting Party

The Mahwah and Ramsey Branches joined hands and hosted a wine tasting on December 2, 2025 at Total Wine in River Edge. Forty-three people enjoyed a presentation on Italian wines that were sampled, followed by a quiz of newly learned knowledge.

*Event organizers—front to back:
Pam DeFeo, Mahwah Branch Co-Chair,
Kathy Ambrose, Ramsey Branch Co-Chair,
Jeannie Safina, Mahwah Branch Co-Chair*



Neiman Marcus Holiday Sip & Shop

On November 20, 2025, the Allendale Branch, in partnership with Neiman Marcus Bergen, kicked off the holiday season with a great event that featured festive fashion and gift-giving presentations. The event included light bites and festive libations.



Holiday 2025 Celebrations

Allendale at Meza Luna



Ridgewood at Ridgewood Country Club



Midland Park at Justin's



Franklin Lakes at Ramsey Country Club



Wanaque at Wanaque Reserve



For Their Generosity In Supporting These VHA Fundraisers

4th Annual Sporting Clays Classic

- Premier:** FMG General Contracting Co., Inc.
- Starting Cannon:** Armistead Mechanical, Inc.
- Dinner:** HDR Architects and Engineers P.C.
- Beverage:** Creative Office Resources
- Ammo:** Torcon, Inc.
- Lite Bites & Refreshments:** Airside Sheet Metal
- Gift:** Skanska USA Building, Inc.
- Cart:** RSC Architects
- Eyes & Ears:** Specialized Fire & Security, Inc.
- Awards:** Marron Foundation

Clay Station: AC Flooring, Batska Consulting Group, Grumman Butkus Associates, H.M. Hughes Co., Inc., Inganamort Family, Interstate Drywall, Jordano Electric

Paramus Run

- Presenting:** La Bella Roma
- Diamond:** Ivy Rehab Physical Therapy, ShopRite In Serra, Russo, Valley Health System, Applebee’s Grill & Bar, Park Avenue BMW, Acura/Park Avenue Acura
- Gold:** Baxt Cosmedical, Bonefish Grill, TD Bank, Roadrunner Sports, Orthoeast, Wells Jaworski Liebman, LLP, Vander Plaat Memorial Home, Fairfield Inn & Suites, Paramus Park
- Blue Ribbon & Race Day:** ENT Allergy & Associates, Huntington Learning Center, Brightview Senior Living, Lidl, Elite Spine & Sports Care, Spear Physical Therapy, HSS Paramus, The Mecca Law Firm, Oradell Animal Hospital, Heart and Vascular Center

The 77th Annual Valley Ball

- Diamond:** Bergen Anesthesia Group, Mount Sinai, Neurosurgeons of New Jersey, Valley Emergency Room Associates
- Emerald:** Bentley Paramus, Torcon, Inc., dancker
- Ruby:** Surya and Valli Mohapatra, HDR Architects and Engineers, R4.Architecture, LLC, Mercedes Benz of Paramus, Christian Health, utiliVisor
- Sapphire:** Ann & Thomas Limberg, Ron & Suzi Mannino, Armistead Mechanical, Inc., Concord Healthcare Development, Inc., PNC Private Bank, Wells, Jaworski, Friedman, LLP



Request for Recipes



In the September 2025 issue of The Acorn, we reached out to you for favorite “original” recipes. Our very own Auxiliary Coordinator, Bonnie Dalal, answered the call and gave us this culinary delight, along with a little story:

“I was working at UnitedHealthcare when I got engaged. Shortly before getting married, I left my job to move out of state with my husband. As a going-away gift—and to help me in my new role as a wife—my coworkers put together a cookbook for me titled **Cookbook for Bonnie: With Love from the Kitchens of Your California Coworkers**. It’s a collection of easy, go-to recipes contributed by my coworkers. One recipe I still make often is Pesto Chicken, shared by one of my coworkers. Here’s the easy and delicious recipe...”

PESTO CHICKEN

- Ingredients:
- 6 boneless chicken breast halves
 - 2 tablespoons olive oil
 - 2 tablespoons chopped parsley
 - 5 teaspoons lime juice
 - 2 tablespoons lemon juice
 - 3 heaping tsp basil pesto
 - 1 large garlic clove – minced
 - Salt and pepper

Whisk together all ingredients except chicken. Pour over chicken and marinate for 4-6 hours. Place in baking dish and bake at 400 degrees for 20-25 minutes. Enjoy!

If you have an original recipe you would like to share with our readers, please send it to Bonnie Dalal: bdalal@valleyhealth.com.

