AUXILIARY NEWSLETTER
FALL 2026

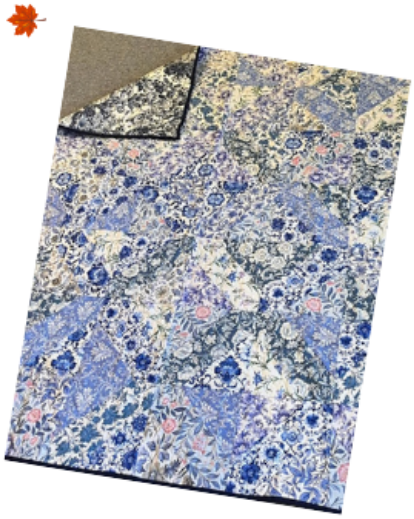
The autumn season is always a busy time of year as we all get back to routines after the relaxing summer months. Our McLean Auxiliary is no exception! We have many activities planned, beginning with our annual **Membership Social on Thursday, October 22.** Local author Sally Summa and artist Ann Hall will talk about their "bear book" that has been so popular. Invitations were sent out in the mail, and we hope you will join us and bring a friend to hear about our upcoming Auxiliary activities. In this newsletter, you will read about events such as our Veteran's Day flower arranging, craft sale and bake sale, as well as our renovations in the gift shop. There are many ways to be active in our efforts to support the McLean community, and we welcome all members to participate. Please reach out to the committee chairs if there is an activity that interests you. Thank you for being part of our Auxiliary.

Jane Stevenson and Doris Rothe
Auxiliary Co-Presidents

Quilt Fundraiser

This beautiful quilt will be on display in the McLean Health Center lobby starting October 19th. Special thanks to Shyrel Bauby for donating her stunning creation! This fundraiser is to benefit Life Enrichment's Ceramic Program.

With every $5.00 donation your name will be entered to win this one-of-a-kind handmade quilt for the holidays. You will not need to be present to win! See our Health Center Gift Shop cashier for making your donation. Winner will be picked on Friday, December 4th at 3:00 PM in the Health Center Living Room.



Join us & Bring a Friend!
McLean Auxiliary Annual Membership Social
Thursday, October 22, 2026
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
A wine and cheese reception will be held at the Garmany Performing Arts Center at the Goodrich, 50 Sarah Lane, Simsbury
Program: Ann Hall, illustrator and Sally Summa, author of the book The Simsbury Bears
RSVP: 860-658-3710 or mclean.auxiliary@mcleancare.org

Auxiliary Gift Shop This has been a whirlwind year for the Auxiliary Gift Shop. Last November we introduced our Square register system which allows us to take all major credit cards. The next time you visit our gift shop you will notice another big change! Our shop has undergone renovation that includes a new coat of paint, new lighting and new flooring. Thanks to the great team of workers at McLean, our shop looks amazing. After reopening on October 14th we are now stocked with new merchandise and lots of holiday decorations. (Halloween and Thanksgiving are not very far away!) Although candy and our impressive card selection remain our best sellers we really offer something for everyone. If you are interested in helping by taking a shift (as few as 3 hours a month) you can be part of our Gift Shop volunteer team. Please stop by the Health Center lobby and take a look!

Gift shop hours (subject to availability of volunteers):
M – F: 10 AM to 4 PM
Saturday: 10 AM – 1 PM (varies)
Sunday: 1 – 4 PM

BEFORE

NOW

Our Village Gift Shop is in need of a volunteer to sub on occasion. We are located in the Burkholder area of the Village. We are open Wednesdays 10 AM- 12 noon. We provide training. If interested in volunteering please call 860-658-3710 and leave a message.

Veteran's Day Flowers

On Nov 11, 2026 at 9 AM we will gather in the Eddy classroom at McLean to assemble flowers into small vases to be delivered to each resident in the Health Center and to veterans in the Village. We honor all our veterans in this way. We welcome Auxiliary members to volunteer to assist in this endeavor. Please call 860 658-3710 if you are interested in helping. Thank you and hope to see you there!

McLean Auxiliary Sponsored

CRAFT SHOW & BAKE SALE

Friday, December 4, 2026

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The McLeanCampus

75 Great Pond Road Simsbury

Free Admission

McLean

75 Great Pond Road Simsbury, CT 06070 | 860-658-3700 | McLeanCare.org | Purple Flag

The McLean Auxiliary will host their Holiday Craft Show on Friday, December 4th from 10 AM-4 PM in the Health Center lobby, living room and art lounge. There will be an in-house teacup auction to benefit the "Residents Special Needs Fund." Any member wishing to donate an item for the teacup auction can leave it at the Front Desk at McLean (from now until the day before the show) tagged Attention: Jean Miles. We also need bakers and donations of wrapped candy for the annual bake sale that takes place during the craft show. All proceeds from the bake sale go towards the Auxiliary fund to support their wonderful programs. Bake sale items may be dropped off by 9:30 AM the morning of the sale. If you are interested in participating in the craft show, applications are available by contacting us at 860-658-3710.

We look forward to hosting you for some holiday shopping!

Dear Readers: we hope you will enjoy hearing from members of the Auxiliary board in their own words. Look for more "interviews with the stars" in future editions!

Maria Babicki

I was introduced to the McLean Auxiliary several years ago by a friend. Having firsthand family experience with elder caregiving, advocacy, and home hospice, it seemed like a natural fit when I was asked to join the Auxiliary Board. I've been so impressed by this group's level of dedication to the residents. They really put their heart and soul into it, and it is an honor to be a part of it. I assist with Publicity and Communications and serve on the Scholarship Committee. My favorite activity is delivering flowers to the residents in observance of May Day and Veterans Day. It is really touching to interact with them and see how much it brightens their day. It sure brightens mine! Outside of the Board, I am a lifelong Connecticut resident and a Realtor with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties in Simsbury. I am also a vintage and collectible vendor at the Salmon Brook Shops in Granby. I enjoy staging homes, home décor, art, gardening, and consignment shopping.
And I love dogs!

Judy Fitzgerald

You may know me from the gift shop or from the trivia socialization group that dates back to the 1970s! I have a long, happy and rewarding history at McLean as an employee, a volunteer, a member of the McLean Foundation Development Committee and President of the employee council. I'm a past co-President of the Auxiliary Board and I'm currently the Corresponding Secretary. I've seen so many special events at McLean during my 40 years here! One that stands out is a visit from President Richard Nixon that brought him to campus in a flotilla of limousines in 1984. The Mother's Day bridal shower when a resident who was a retired naval commander escorted the brides-to-be is a favorite memory. I recall the anniversary 10K road race and several Christmas tree auctions that were terrific fundraisers as well as fabulous social occasions. My family members are also part of my McLean story since two of my sons volunteered with residents as bridge partners many years ago and others in my family received care from McLean for rehabilitation, home care and hospice. I'm happy to be able to share some of my favorite McLean moments.

ANGEL HEARTS - HELP NEEDED - Planning ahead for 2027!
Every Valentine's Day the residents of McLean Health Center receive a little gift from a "friend of the McLean Auxiliary" through the Angel Hearts program. We ask residents for suggestions of what they might like (candy, lotion, shampoo, socks, a book or a gift certificate to the McLean Gift Shop). These wishes are inscribed on paper hearts that will adorn the holiday tree in the lobby by mid-January. Anyone coming into the health center can take a heart to fulfill the request and return the gift by early February. The program is truly appreciated by the residents.
We need VOLUNTEERS to help with all aspects of the program from cutting and hanging the hearts to organizing and fulfilling the gifts and delivering the gift bags on Valentine's Day. Please contact the McLean Auxiliary at 860-658-3710 or McLean.auxiliary@mcleancare.org If you can help in any way.

The Auxiliary has a list of impressive accomplishments to report from the past year! Through membership dues and gift shop revenues, the McLean Auxiliary provides annual grants to McLean and a scholarship for an employee or child of an employee pursuing education in a health care field. This year **two** $1,000 Scholarships were given. We also awarded grants for seasonal decorations for assisted living and independent living, funds for Presidents' College programs, sun hats for health center residents to enjoy the outdoors, an omelet station for the health center dining room, funds for ceramics, music therapy, a terrace umbrella, terrace lighting, sensory items and $1000 in Bingo gift certificates for Life Enrichment and a rolling cart for Hospice. Wow!

McLean Auxiliary Board
2026-2027
Doris Rothe & Jane Stevenson – Co-Presidents/ Gift Shop Managers
Nora Hillman – Vice President / Membership / Art Lounge Coordinator
Brenda Sullivan – Treasurer
Sarah White – Recording Secretary / Gift Shop Buyer
Judy Fitzgerald – Corresponding Secretary
Ruth Senger – Past President
Maria Babicki – Board Member – Publicity/ Communications
Sandy Cady – Board Member
Colleen Casavant – Board Member - Gift Shop Scheduler
Lisa Edwards – Board Member
Mary Johnson – Board Member - May Day Flowers Coordinator
Jean Miles – Board Member – Newsletter Editor
Ann O'Donnell - Board Member
Carlene Rhea - McLean Liaison

McLean Auxiliary
75 Great Pond Road
Simsbury, CT 06070

This is the McLean Auxiliary newsletter, FALL EDITION! Newsletters are also published on the McLean website https://mcleancare.org. The Auxiliary's programs enhance McLean in many ways. We hope you will enjoy reading about our activities and share our mission with others. For more information about membership please call 860-658-3710. Membership is open to employees, residents, families and neighbors.

McLean