It seems like just yesterday we were celebrating Gayle’s presidency and getting ready to begin a new Blue Bird year and here we are with it coming to a close. Time has flown by so quickly, in part because of all the exciting events and accomplishments of the past year. I am sincerely grateful for all of you who have supported me during this fantastic experience.

The PR committee, chaired by Carol Sharp, kicked off the year with the “Tie One On” party which showcased the Shop. The event provided an opportunity to raise funds while sharing fellowship and spotlighting our Blue Bird spirit.

The hard work, dedication and accomplishments of the Blue Birds were featured in an article in the summer edition of “Shine”, the official publication of Texas Children’s Hospital. This helped further our goal of increasing the public visibility of the work of the Blue Bird Circle.

Led by Kathy Kennedy, Blue Birds diversified their volunteer scope and participated in the telethon to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association, again, increasing visibility beyond our traditional boundaries.

Baylor College of Medicine nominated the Blue Bird Circle for Outstanding Community Service Organization as recognized by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Greater Houston Chapter. Blue Birds were honored and presented the award at the AFP National Philanthropy Day Awards Luncheon.

We welcomed the holiday season with an elegant evening at the “House of Blue”, the annual Blue Bird gala and auction, chaired by Lisa Reed. We were delighted by enticing auction items, delicious food and Jazzy entertainment.

The Blue Bird Clinic achieved a number of outstanding accomplishments this year in the areas of patient care, research and continuum of service. The number of patients seen in The Blue Bird Clinic continues to increase with over 14,500 patients being seen this year.

Members of the Blue Bird Rett Center team along with other professionals from Birmingham, Alabama and the Columbia, South Carolina Genetics Center take the clinic on the road to see patients and consult with local physicians who attend clinical sessions. These patients and medical service providers in Oakland, California; Boca Raton, Florida; Chicago, Illinois; and New Brunswick, New Jersey, would not have access to the unprecedented level of treatment and understanding of Rett’s and other neurological disorders if the Blue Bird clinic did not come to them. In addition, these patients would not be able to contribute to the research efforts being conducted through the Natural History of Rare Diseases protocol. This collaborative model of service delivery allows the Blue Bird Circle to touch the lives of many children, far beyond the

(Continued on page 2)
greater Houston area.

A key accomplishment of The Blue Bird Circle Developmental Neurogenetics Laboratory this year was the identification of an epilepsy mechanism in 1 new mouse model of neonatal inherited epilepsy.

Dr. Noebel’s laboratory is now involved in a large genetic research project on Autism, a disorder now believed to effect 1 in 150 children in the US. This important and timely research will explore potential genetic components in this complicated condition and will have implications for diagnosis and treatment protocols. To accomplish these tasks, Dr. Noebel’s team has expanded laboratory space by 2,000 sq. ft., now totaling 4,000 sq. ft.

Spring bloomed with our traditional baskets and our signature, hand painted Easter eggs. Basket creation was coordinated by a committee of previous chairmen and Patsy Lawrence was lead bunny, chairing the egg committee.

Chairman Linda Wells showed her style by leading the “Luncheon on the Bayou”, our annual Style Show luncheon and auction. Fabulous clothes and fabulous auction items, what more could anyone want?

Of course, I must publicly thank Lelani Sinclair, Marilyrne Gorman and Carole Craig for the planning and production of the President’s Luncheon. It is wonderful to have such special friends who use their talents so freely.

I want to reiterate how much I appreciate your support and dedication. I thank you for the opportunity of being your President. It has been an honor and privilege to work with so many capable and dedicated women.

It is now time to pass the gavel to my friend Kathy Keckley, your Blue Bird Circle President for 2007-2008. Welcome, congratulations and smooth “flying”.

In closing, I would like to share with all of you a letter from Dr. Angus Wilfong.

I cannot express enough my singular gratitude for the extraordinary kindness and generosity that the Blue Bird Circle and its volunteers display each and every day. When I approached the Circle to assist one of my needy families, there was no hesitation in meeting this families needs in a time of crisis. Unfortunately, their son Jeremy has a tragic degenerative brain disease called Rasmussen’s Disease. This is a condition that results in complete destruction of the entire half of one side of the brain with resultant uncontrollable seizures, dementia and paralysis. The only treatment has been surgical resection of the diseased half of the brain. However, a new and exciting experimental treatment is being developed in the Blue Bird Circle Clinic for Pediatric Neurology and Jeremy was a candidate to participate. There is hope that this medical treatment can stop and even reverse the effects of the disease.

Unfortunately, the treatment requires four intravenous infusions done once a week in the hospital. Jeremy’s family had no funds to travel from their small village in New Mexico and Medicaid would not help, as the treatment was experimental. This is when the Circle came to their aid and generously provided the funding for their travels and accommodations. I am so pleased to report that Jeremy has shown dramatic improvements following the infusions and he no longer has any signs of paralysis and has only had a couple of seizures. It pulls at my heart to see how happy he and his family are. They have been given
true hope for a brighter future through the tireless work of the Blue Bird Circle.

I am humbled to have the privilege to work with you to help maximize the quality of life for the children and their families suffering from neurologic disease.

Carole McGarry  
President 2006-2007

This year has sped by so fast, I can hardly believe it is time for me to take over as your president. I can only hope this coming year will go as fast and as smoothly.

I am anxiously looking forward to working with you wonderful Blue Bird ladies. I know I will need all of your help and support to meet any new challenges; and to share in all the rewards!

Let us all remember to keep the spirit of our Circle in our hearts: the spirit of love and loyalty to each other. Then...let’s have fun, and make some new memories along the way.

Kathy Keckley  
President 2007-2008

Allison Patrick, the granddaughter of Annette Bird, has been selected by Baylor College of Medicine for a summer internship in Dr. Noebel’s Lab.

In 1995-96 with her grandmother as Chairman of the Junior Volunteers, Allison and Dr. Noebel’s daughter Kate became two of the first Blue Bird Junior Volunteers. From this experience of volunteerism she continued to volunteer throughout her college career.

Allison is currently a senior at Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana. Her major is Biology with an emphasis in Genetic Research. She is engaged in many volunteer activities with her primary effort being tutoring at risk girls.

Blue Birds,

Please help us save money and serve our shop customers better by bringing shopping bags (the kind with string handles), paper grocery bags, and white newsprint packing paper to Narsi.

Our plastic bags aren’t ideal for packing fragile merchandise.

THANKS :-)

Needlepoint Stitchers are needed for the Gala Needlepoint Project—

Call Kathy Dissen  
@713–529-9022 or email @sdissen@houston.rr.com

Let’s surprise her and volunteer before she calls YOU!
President’s Luncheon

Thanks for the memories
It has been my honor and pleasure to serve the Circle in the office of First Vice President this year. I am grateful for all the support, patience and assistance I have received from the Board, former 1st VP’s, as well as all my Blue Bird friends. The hours involved are more than compensated by the gratification of the job itself, meeting new Blue Birds, learning more about the Circle, and feeling a sense of accomplishment and contribution. It is with pleasure and excitement that I turn the job over to the very capable and dedicated hands of Mills Toomey for 2007/2008. I know she will do an outstanding job!

Our new June 2007 class of Provisionals was introduced at the General Meeting in May. We are delighted to have them join us, and we thank their sponsors for bringing them into the Circle. They are:

Sally Harpool
Joan McAuliffe
Leslie Taylor
Lilly King (Junior Provisional)
Meg Murray (Junior Provisional)

Congratulations to the following ladies who have completed their Provisional year and have met their requirements to become Active members as of June 1, 2007.

We welcome these lovely, hardworking new members:

Susan Carlisle
Kathy Hardy
Karen Nimmons
Sandra Shenkir
Karen Litel (Junior Active)

As a reminder, packets will be ready in August for sponsoring new members for the January 2008 class.

Please give careful consideration to sponsoring someone who is interested in becoming a Blue Bird and whom you feel will be an asset to our Circle.

Don’t forget! Please send written status change requests to the First Vice President as soon as possible, as all status changes must be voted on by the Board.

Yearbook Changes:

Carol Allbritton
1503 West 29th Street
Austin, TX 78703-1921
(512) 495-1880

Elizabeth “Neb” Bennett
3180 Munroe Drive
Miami, FL 33133-5917

Eleanor Curtis
777 N. Post Oak Road #1404
Houston, TX 77024-3800

Michele Friedman
2164 Addison Road
Houston, TX 77030-1222

Sally Johnson
P.O. Box 2472
Victoria, TX 77902-2472

Marjorie Kerner
1100 Grand Blvd. #318
Boerne, TX 78006-9261

Rae Ann McCanse
13822 Trailville Drive
Houston, TX 77077-1126

Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your First Vice President this year, and have a wonderful summer!

Pat Lucas
First Vice President/Membership 2006-2007
SHOPPING AROUND

Here we are at the end of another rewarding year at The Blue Bird Shop. Carole, Sue and I would like to thank all of you who have so generously given your time and talents to our shop during this past year. Without you this year of accomplishments would not have been possible and our clinic would not receive the funds it needs to operate. THANK YOU!!!!

Judy Bute will be the Shop Chairman beginning June 1 and is very fortunate to have most of the Blue Birds who have been chairing the various departments in the Shop during 2006-2007 continuing their good work for the 2007-2008 year. Thanks go to all of those Blue Birds for their past and future service.

All Active members must have a service assignment for 2007-2008 which begins June 1 so if you are not working at the shop or the clinic, we need you. All of you who are Life or Honorary members would be welcome and much appreciated. Just call Judy Bute and she will find you a spot where you are needed and where you would like to work, even if it is once a month!

Our volunteers have worked many hours to make the Shop the successful enterprise that it is. From June through April 216 Blue Birds worked 37,903 hours in the shop. Many of the Shop’s volunteers worked over 200 hours this year.

I can't give enough thanks to everyone who has volunteered in the Shop this year – every hour that you give makes a difference, and every hour is appreciated. You all have made this a wonderful, fun, profitable year at the shop and it has been an honor to be your Shop Chairman. Susan and Carole will continue to give their talents and time, Carole as Shop Co-Chairman, Susan as Cashier Chairman. Maggie Austin will continue to work her magic as Furniture Chairman AND all three will return as CC's!

    Have a great summer!
    Martha Yates
    Shop Chairman 2006-2007

I look forward to my year as shop chairman I and am grateful for this opportunity to serve The Blue Bird Circle. My goal is to continue the momentum of success The Shop has had in previous years.

This summer as many of us go on vacation The Shop will be left short handed. Please, join us at The Shop and see old friends as well as make new friends. Give The Shop a few hours or a day of your time and I will promise you fellowship, fun, and the satisfaction of working toward a shared goal --- the continued success of our clinic.

    Laissez bon temps roullez,
    [Let the good times roll,]
    Judy Bute
    Shop Chairman 2007-2008
I would like to congratulate each and every one of you for making it a very successful year for our projects. The success of the projects are not achieved by one person but the teamwork of everyone involved. I am extremely grateful to all of you for making me your Second Vice President for the year 2006-2007. I have thoroughly enjoyed this job and I am most appreciative for the opportunity to serve in this position.

EASTER BASKETS
Diane Konen and Jean Mayhew led our Easter Basket workers every Tuesday at 10:00 A.M. Our success is due to dedicated teachers like Bertha Jamison and Betty Jordan who taught basket making, Maxine Fantini and Beulah Lenox, for teaching flower making. Every worker spent a lot of time at the shop and at home making this project a success. We made 675 Easter Baskets and sold out! Our vendors were still asking for more even after we sold out.

EASTER EGGS
Patsy Lawrence chaired our Easter Egg Project. She introduced our "Designer Eggs" that were sold only at the shop. Patsy spent a lot of time learning how to make these beautiful eggs and also teaching us how to make them as well. Our traditional eggs were sold at our vendors and I am happy to say that both the traditional eggs and designer eggs were sold out! We made 9000 Easter Eggs this year, due to the efforts of Terry Bailey, Marilynne Gorman and Martha Yates for keeping our quota on track.

There are so many ladies that worked so hard on both the Easter Egg and Easter Basket Projects that I hesitate to mention the names for fear of leaving someone out, so I feel safe in just mentioning the leaders and teachers of these two projects. Cookbooks are still available at the shop, thanks to Mary Ann Macy for being cookbook chairman. Even though we do not have an Arts & Craft chairman, there are still many beautiful items that these ladies have made available at the shop also.

It has been my good fortune to serve as the Second Vice President this year and to all of you I thank you for the privilege from the bottom of my heart.

Roslyn Luprete
Second Vice President 2006-2007

Thank you for the honor of being elected as your Second Vice President, for the years of 2007-2008.

EASTER EGGS
I am please to announce that Gail Ramsey will serve as the Project Chairman for this term. We know what a dedicated Blue Bird Gail is, and I know we will all enjoy working with her.

EASTER BASKETS, COOKBOOKS & ARTS & CRAFTS, these teams are being gathered now and we are sure we are going to put together some fun teams. So please come join us, for it will be another great time to be a “BLUE BIRD”.

Tanya Drury
Second Vice President 2007-2008
DANCING WITH THE STARS

Wednesday, October 10, 2007
Houston Country Club

6:30 PM

Please make plans to join us for Dancing with the Stars. A magical night of
dancing with the likes of Fred Astair and Ginger Rogers.

There are plenty of opportunities for every Blue Bird to contribute to the success of
this event. Invitations will need addressing, auction items will need securing, any
contacts you have or suggestions you may have for table buyers, underwriters, or
corporate supporters should be passed along ASAP to Gayle Ramsey, Underwriter
Chairman.

Take advantage of the Enclosed Reservations form on the next page today and
secure a special table at

Dancing with the Stars.

Maggie Austin 713 784-4770
Barbara Buck 713 520-0736
DANCING WITH THE STARS
The Blue Bird Circle * Wednesday, October 10, 2007
Houston Country Club * 6:30 p.m.

Name ________________________________________________

Address ______________________________________________________  Zip____________________

Home Phone_________________________    Office Phone_____________________________

(As you wish it to appear in the program)

UNDERWRITER

___$10,000  STARS – Table for 10
___$ 5,000  HEADLINER – Table for 10
___$ 3,000  CELEBRITY – Table for 10

Individual Ticket(s)
$1000 x_____  $500 x_____  $300 x_____

I am unable to attend but have enclosed a tax-deductible contribution in the amount of $_______
made payable to The Blue Bird Circle.

Please charge the amount of $______________ to my:

___ American Express  ___ Master Card  ___ Visa

Card No._________________________________________  Exp. Date _______/________

Name as it appears on card ______________________________________________________________

Please Mail To:

THE BLUE BIRD CIRCLE
% MRS. PAUL MCGARRY
12211 COBBLESTONE DRIVE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77024

If you have any questions, please contact:
Maggie Austin 713 784-4770 or Barbara Buck 713 520-0736
A NOTE EXPRESSING OUR SYMPATHY WAS SENT TO:

Family of BARBARA PITMAN GRAVES who died November 16 in Austin and had been a member since 1980.

MARY PETERSON whose husband, George Alfred Peterson, died March 20.

ANN GREER whose daughter, Gayle Ann Greer, died March 31 in Dallas.

Family of NEVA WATKINS WEST who died March 25 and had been a member since 1933.

Family of JUDGE ALLEN DAGGETT, who died April 4 and was the husband of the late Deanie Daggett.

Family of former member, HAZEL COOK BRIGGS, who died in Austin on April 24 and had been a member for 17 years.

CHRISTINE ATTAR whose mother, Mildred Gibbons, died May 3 in Houston.

SHIRLEY KRIEG whose mother-in-law, Mildred Krieg, died May 16 in Santa Cruz, CA

MARY LOU CHAPMAN whose husband, Dr. Don W. Chapman, died May 3.

ALTA MAE GRAVES whose husband, Guy Dunning Graves, died May 6.

Family of JOAN FITZGERALD CURRY who died May 20 and had been a member since 1986, having served as president 1997-98.

A NOTE EXPRESSING OUR CONGRATULATIONS WAS SENT TO:

MARY ROBINSON whose grandson, James Leland Robinson, was born Jan. 9 to Holly and Oliver Robinson in Houston.

FRAN SCHOENVOGEL whose first great-grandchild, Caroline Reece Schoenvogel, was born Jan. 9 to Melanie and Scott Schoenvogel in Dallas.

JANET MILLER whose daughter, Katharine Tyson Miller, married Jeffrey Howard Todd on March 31 in Houston. CAROLYN PURIFOY and KATHY RENCH are her cousins.

(Continued on page 11)
ANDE THE WINNERS ARE…..

The 7 recipients of the THOMAS E. ZION FUND FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH for 2007 are:

1. **Family Time Foundation** for counseling & activities & special days of fun for shelter children. **Nominated by Jan Shryock**

2. **CCSC** to supply school supplies, uniforms & shoes for 66 children pre K to 8th grade. **Nominated by Diane Konen**

3. **United Cerebral Palsy Camp Smiles** to provide camping experience at Camp for All for children with seizure and CP disorders. **Nominated by Carolyn Neill**

4. **Memorial Assistance Ministry** - a large group of Houston churches to provide vision testing and eyeglasses for 32 children for the "I Can See Program". **Nominated by Edloe Stuckey and Bertha Jamison**

5. **Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club** to fund the Power Hour which teaches & helps with homework completion and ethical values. **Nominated by Michelle Bain**

6. **Woodview Elementary School** to purchase current, appropriate literature for low income students to share with their families and "literary circles" at school. **Nominated by Joyce Ryan**

7. **Yellowstone Academy** to fund educational enhancement in Social Studies for low income children in 4th grade. **Nominated by Jenna Saour and Liz Woodard**

Total funding for 2007 = $18,500.00

Nominate your favorite non medical program next year for consideration for funding.

Deanna Murphy, Chairman
### JUNE

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"HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU"
WE REMEMBER

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT ANY DONATIONS MADE BY CHECK WHICH YOU DESIRE TO DIRECT TO THE BLUE BIRD CLINIC BE MADE OUT TO THE BLUE BIRD CIRCLE, NOT THE CLINIC ITSELF. PLEASE PUT THE “CLINIC FUND” IN THE MEMO AREA OF YOUR CHECK.

Please remember to send all donations, including any for the BB Clinic, to our Treasurer at The Blue Bird Circle Shop address. Be sure to direct the amount to the proper Fund and include the name of the person you wish to be notified of your gift as well as which name (or names) you wish to use on the donation acknowledgement.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

21 donations were given to The Blue Bird Circle in February, March and April in loving memory of:

- Frances Banks
- L.C. Graves
- Elizabeth Powell
- Tom Berley
- Grace Johnson
- Albert Purifoy
- Jack Davis
- Maxine Leaton
- Laura Schoeellmann
- James Daugherty
- Evelyn Long
- Neva West
- Jane Ford
- Thomas Mudd, Jr.
- Martin Whatley
- Kenneth Ford
- Isabelle McClain
- Nell Williams
- Pat Glauser
- George Peterson
- Mrs. C.E. Winniford

Donations were made in Honor of:
- Marilynne Gorman, Kathy Kennedy, Martha Tucker, and Linda Wells

The total of donations for February, March, and April is $2,135.00

Carolyn Purifoy
Memorials/Donations

CLINIC NEWS

What Is Going On?

Excuse me; let me wipe my brow…..

Things have really been rocking these past couple of weeks. I ask myself “What is going on? It has been such a quite time for me as chairman of the Clinic. Why is all this happening in the last 2 weeks of my chairmanship? Who is testing me?”

I look back on the year and I have realized that it has not been as quite as I thought. We have had almost all clerical staff replaced. We are losing 3 Fellows, but getting 4 more. Dr. Fishman is retiring. Dr. Cruse is moving to Arizona. Tammy has accepted another position within TCH. Peggy moved to San Ant. And, we keep out of Ms. Alexander’s sight when her lips form “r”………

I can be thankful that the construction is done. The art is back in their different spots. “Know you Clinic” is long behind me. The phone tree is kind of working which means that the Blue Birds are not inundated with calls. We have a lovely new social worker, Diane Murrell. And, that I will have no more agendas to set up.

So, what is going on? Anna can you answer that question………

Mills Toomey, Clinic Chairman 2006-2007
Anna Mermis, Clinic Chairman 2007-2008
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SAVE THE NIGHT !!!!!
BLUE BIRD GALA
DANCING WITH THE STARS
Wednesday, October 10, 2007
HOUSTON COUNTRY CLUB
6:30PM