

## OBSERVER PHILANTHROPY

AMIT  
2008  
ANNUAL  
DINNER

Sunday, November 16, 2008

5:00 PM

Grand Hyatt New York  
Park Avenue at Grand Central  
New York City

## HONOREES:

Anne Bernstein  
Trudy and Stanley Stern  
John F. Fullerton, III

## TRIBUTE TO:

Shulamith Cohn and the  
Inaugural Class of Midreshet AMIT

## SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

Bar/Bat Mitzvah  
Twinning Participants

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212-477-4725, 1-800-989-AMIT or robinr@amitchildren.orgcelebrate  
THE  
JOY  
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GIVINGBuilding Israel  
One Child at a Time

## Partners in Care

Recently, I was asked why I think savvy consumers pay more attention to the safety and reliability record of a new car purchase than they do to the hiring of a home health aide for a frail and elderly parent. Because of my role as head of the nation's largest non-profit provider of home health aides, it was assumed I would provide a not-for-profit kind of "Consumer Reports" answer to a question that is currently under much debate. So here it is. The incidence of abuse and fraud in the home care industry so often reported in the popular media would be dramatically reduced if baby boomer consumers followed their own consumerist "caveat emptor" advice and selected an aide with the same diligence they use when they scour the latest issue of "Consumer Reports" for home appliances.



Partners in Care

According to 2008 research, 21% of New York City home care consumers employ aides outside of licensing and regulation. And then they are surprised when something goes wrong.

Regardless of the agency you choose, there are basic questions you should ask.

What kind of screening process is used to weed out people with troubled backgrounds? How much basic training are the aides receiving? What kind of ongoing specialized training are they receiving?

Are they supported by nursing expertise 24/7?

When you hire someone not from a licensed agency, you're putting the patient at personal

risk. For more guidance on the right questions to ask: [http://www.partnersincareny.org/a\\_caregivers.html](http://www.partnersincareny.org/a_caregivers.html).

—Marki Flannery,  
President of Partners in Care

## LIVES IN PHILANTHROPY

## LIN EVOLA-SMIDT

The Art of Peace Charitable Trust  
BY JILLIAN BLUME

The Art of Peace Charitable Trust Inaugural Dinner was held in the United Nations Delegates' Dining Room on the anniversary of 9/11, in keeping with its mission. Based in New York, the trust was founded by artist Lin Evola-Smidt to promote world peace through the collection of weapons on the street and of war, which are then melted down and used to create her remarkable "peace monuments." Both the United Nations Department of Disarmament in New York and Geneva, Switzerland have endorsed her and the charitable trust's efforts.

An artist for as long as she can remember, Ms. Evola-Smidt was a conceptual artist and painter, with solo exhibitions in museums and galleries all over the world. But after what she describes as an inspirational experience in 1992 and the discovery that 1,000 children were killed in Los Angeles County every year, she decided that she needed a new medium to fulfill her vision.

"It was very important that, whatever I decided to do, it would change hearts and transform the way humanity views itself, so we can move away from conflict towards cooperation. What I came up with was a contemporary version of the ancient Axiom of melting Swords into Ploughshares," she said. This quest led to the creation of a project founded in California in 1992 and evolved in 2008 into the mission of The Art of Peace Charitable Trust. She was not interested in merely using weapons to make art, but rather in asking people to participate by giving up their own weapons, which she then melted down and transformed into monuments of peace. She found that different cities yielded different weapons, with Los Angeles, New York, and Johannesburg collecting guns, while in Sarajevo, it was land mines. Other cities have yielded machine guns, cluster bombs, and decommissioned missile casings.

Immediately after the attack on the World Trade Center, Ms. Evola-Smidt brought her 13-foot Renaissance Peace Monument from California to downtown New York, where firemen, rescue workers, and police officers spontaneously signed the statue's base. It remained in the city for nine

months, during which time it was promised as a gift to the September 11th Memorial Museum.

Recently, she has been working on a plan to create the first New York Peace Monument from weapons collected in New York and worldwide, partnering with the International Action Network on Small Arms (a global movement against gun violence), the NYC police department, and Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau. Conflict resolution programs will also be available through the Police Athletic League, The Council for Unity, and Youth at Risk.

This 30-foot monument will be mounted on a base called "The Conversation" that will have 30 portrait sculptures of individuals who have dedicated their work to achieve peace for humanity. Two of those portraits will be of Nobel Peace Laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu and George Soros, founder and chairman of The Open Society Institute.

For Ms. Evola-Smidt there is no division between her life and her work. "I live to be of service," she said. "I've spoken to many young people and have seen how this work has changed their lives. I want to go to their college graduations instead of their funerals."

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