Lucy Crichton is a board-certified chaplain who integrates the arts as a means of stimulating the imagination, building community and healing in her life and work. She brought passion for the arts to her work in a continuing care retirement community, and in hospice. Lucy has fostered arts in healthcare by writing grants and facilitating artists to be involved in health care since 2004. Her degrees include a BS from the University of Wisconsin, MA from Goddard College, and D.Min. from the University of Creation Spirituality. She recently retired from Havenwood-Heritage Heights.

Dr. Gary Christenson (Keynote Speaker) is Chief Medical Officer of Boynton Health Service at University of Minnesota, an adjunct Associate Professor of Psychiatry in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Minnesota, and distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. He has special expertise in the interface of art and medicine. Dr. Christenson chairs Boynton’s Art Committee, which oversees special exhibitions as well as live performances through the University’s Music Therapy Program. Dr. Christenson is past co-chair of the Midwest Arts in Healthcare Network, and immediate past president of the Global Alliance for Arts & Health, an international organization promoting education, advocacy, and research on the contributions arts make to health and healing. Dr. Christenson is a regularly featured speaker at the annual The Art of Good Health and Wellbeing conference in Australia and received their Award for Excellence for International work in Arts & Health in 2012. His article “Why We Need the Arts in Medicine” was featured in the July 2011 issue of Minnesota Medicine of the Minnesota Medical Association.

Deb DeCicco serves as the Executive Assistant to the President and the Healing Arts Coordinator at Crotched Mountain Foundation, Greenfield, NH. From 1996 to 2006 she was the Director of the School of Arts and Crafts at the Sharon Arts Center, Peterborough, NH. Deb has been a freelance artist for over 30 years, working in drawing, painting, printmaking, fiber arts and book arts. She taught fiber arts and drawing classes and has sold her work in a variety of shops and galleries throughout New England.

Kelly Doremus Stuart, Dance Educator/Choreographer, has been sharing her love of dance and expressive movement with people of all ages and abilities in a wide range of venues throughout New Hampshire for over 20 years. She received her Bachelor of Science in dance with a concentration in Dance Therapy from Skidmore College. Her professional teaching credits include: Roster Artist/Trainer with VSA arts of New Hampshire and with the N.H. State Council on the Arts, Arts-in-Education and Arts in Health Care programs, Movement Instructor for the New England College Theater Department and Co-Director of Petit Papillon, The Ballet Theater of NH.

Rebecca Gottesman visits people receiving infusion treatment at the Norris Cotton Cancer Center and provides arts programs in inpatient units at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. Rebecca carefully renders in watercolor patients’ favorite places, and invites them to try painting, beading, sculpting, or crocheting. Rebecca received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting and Ceramics from Syracuse University, and is a member of the Vermont Watercolor Society. She teaches art to adults, children, and teenagers throughout the Upper Valley in a variety of venues and communities. Rebecca’s work has been exhibited in galleries and exhibits in NH, VT, NY and beyond.

Peggo Horstmann Hodes is hailed as a “versatile, vivacious and warm-hearted singer” who “dazzles and engages” her audience. Connecting voice and breath with heart and spirit, Peggo’s Vibrant Voice workshop is a way to discover deeper layers of ourselves, who we really are, and how to sing and express that in life. With master’s degrees in Vocal Pedagogy from New England Conservatory and Elementary Education from Lesley College, Peggo was the Voice Department Chair of Concord Community Music School for fifteen years. She has taught hundreds of people how to sing. Currently, Peggo is the conductor of Songweavers, a 150+ women’s a cappella chorus that performs music from many ethnic traditions, accompanied by rollicking drums.

Alice Kinsler (Conference Co-Chair), a registered art therapist with a Masters in Art Therapy, has facilitated programs for people with acute and chronic illness and disability in institutional and community settings for over thirty years, and was adjunct Human Services faculty at NHTI for nine years. Alice has directed Concord Hospital’s Therapeutic Arts and
Activity Services since 1989. Based on the philosophy that healing best occurs when the patient is cared for as a complete person - body, mind, and spirit - and in recognition of the role arts and humanities play in healing and wellness, the Therapeutic Arts and Activity Service helps people regain or retain dignity, identity, and hope even when they feel most vulnerable.

Ellen Koenig has been the Director of Education and Resources at the NH Center for Nonprofits since 2010. Ellen worked all her professional life in the NH nonprofit sector, including: Co-Executive Director of Granite State Independent Living; Grant-maker for 10 years at the NH Charitable Foundation, where she administered the Corporate and Walker Fund; and, Coordinator for Technology Entrepreneurs’ regional system. Ellen has served as a board member for Concord Trust for the Enhancement of Public Education, CONFR, and Leadership New Hampshire. Currently she serves on the boards of the Circle Program and NH Women’s Initiative.

June Latti, former Activity Director at a county nursing home, offers painting and art appreciation for nursing home residents, individuals with disabilities, and persons with Alzheimer's Disease. A therapeutic artist and educator for the Currier Museum’s Art School, she creates a respectful and stimulating environment in which residents can develop artistic skills, self-esteem, communication, and self-confidence, while reducing social isolation. She also provides training workshops for staff. Ms. Latti has a degree in Fine Arts and over 15 years of teaching and working with older adults and children. She curated the touring exhibit, “Expressions of Color from the Heart”, creative paintings made by people with disabilities, including dementia, part of which is on exhibit today in Conference Rooms B and C.

Theophilus Nii Martey, master percussionist, dancer, and teacher, is originally from Ghana, West Africa. Theo is a master of West African drumming and dance, a rich heritage that has many subtle variations in rhythm, styles, and costumes. Theo started his drumming and dancing studies in Ghana at the age of 6, under the wing of master drummers and dancers, and later studied in England and Australia. Founder of the Akwaaba Drum and Dance Ensemble in Manchester, NH, he offers music for instruction and healing to people of all ages including autistic children and people in assisted living. The Akwaaba Ensemble, whose energetic and engaging performances reflect their name (‘welcome’ in the Twi language), brings varied tribal groups’ rich and subtle rhythmic patterns and styles to vivid life. Theo is part of a network of musicians who specialize in West African music and dance, and is on the NH State Council on the Arts’ Traditional Arts Roster.

Betsy McNamara, a principal of Full Circle Consulting, has been fundraising for non-profit organizations since 1988. She has raised millions of dollars for organizations in education, human services, affordable housing, the arts and land conservation. Ms. McNamara counsels non-profit organizations on how to raise money for programs or capital campaigns from individuals, businesses, religious organizations, civic groups, foundations and government grants.

Emily Mills is a Music Practitioner, certified by the Music for Healing and Transition Program (2007). Trained in the effects of music on mind and body, she has played therapeutic music at the bedside at Concord Hospital for five years. She also works at Pheasantwood Nursing Home in Peterborough. A former special education teacher and administrator, Emily holds a Masters Degree in Special Education (1988) and a Bachelor’s Degree in Personnel Management (1980) from Keene State College. During her years as an educator Emily studied music and worked with developmentally disabled children, adults and elderly people, before focusing solely on therapeutic music in healthcare settings.

Catherine O’Brian (Conference Co-Chair) is the Arts Education and Arts in Health Care Grants and Programs Coordinator for NH State Council on the Arts. She works with artists, health care providers and educators to bring creative arts to students of all ages and under-served populations in NH. Catherine is a UNH graduate with an MA in writing and focus on poetry. She received the UNH Thomas Williams Graduate Poetry Award for her manuscript, The White Nightgown. Catherine was co-founder and contributing editor of Red Brick Review Journal. Her poems have been published in several notable Reviews. Her chapbook of poems, Lucky to Be Born in a House of Milk, is part of the “Walking to Windward” series.
Tanya Prather is Manager of Volunteer Services for Home Health & Hospice Care, which serves the greater Nashua and Manchester areas. Over the past 10 years, this non-profit volunteer program has grown to about 250 volunteers, and HHHC has expanded its services to include a number of complementary therapies, including Compassionate Touch (Reiki), Therapeutic Art, Pet Visits, Music at the Bedside, and the Wellspring Hospice Singers. Tanya also coordinates programs which integrate the arts into support for hospice staff and volunteers.

Beverly Rush is a Certified Music Practitioner through the Music for Healing and Transition Program (2007). MHTP is a course of study which recognizes music as an enhancement to the healing process and prepares musicians to serve those who may benefit from live music in a healing environment. She has worked at Concord Hospital (since 2008), the Merrimack County Nursing Home in Boscawen, and Villa Crest Nursing Home, Manchester. She also has in-home patients. Prior to using music for healing, Beverly has had 35 years of performing and recording as a singer/songwriter/guitarist.

Frumie Selchen is Executive Director of the Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire, a nonprofit network dedicated to integrating the arts into all aspects of regional life, from education and tourism to economic and community development and health care. She holds a degree in comparative literature from Yale University and worked in publishing before moving to New Hampshire. She served as Rural Arts Coordinator for the NH State Council on the Arts prior to joining the Arts Alliance. A Profile Award winner, she has served on many boards, including the NH Center for Nonprofits, NH Travel Council, and North Country Region of the NH Charitable Foundation. She lives in Wonalancet, with the Sandwich Wilderness as her back yard.

Jane Seney is the Educator for Tour and Docent Programs at the Currier Museum of Art with over 90 volunteer tour guides for the museum and Zimmerman House. Jane holds a Masters in Education from Harvard Graduate School as well as a Masters in Art History from Boston University. She has worked at several New England museums, has taught Art History and Museum Education. She currently teaches at the NH Institute of Art. Jane recently team-taught Contemporary Health Issues in Art, Film, and Literature for Saint Anselm College’s nursing program and a continuing education course, The Fine Art of Nursing Care. Jane recently initiated a program, Active Minds and tour at the Currier for people with Alzheimer’s and dementia.

Deborah Steele has been Manager for Patient and Family Support Services at the Norris Cotton Cancer Center in Lebanon, NH, since 2001. She has a Master’s degree in Art Therapy and has worked in hospital and retreat settings using art, guided imagery, sand tray, and writing for renewal and self-expression. Deb manages the Creative Arts Program at Norris Cotton, which consists of music, writing and visual art components for inpatient bedside visits and cancer outpatient clinic visits.

Committee Members, Contributors, and Volunteers

In addition to our presenters, we would like to thank and express our appreciation for the work and contributions of our Arts in Health Care Conference Planning Committee, Joan Goshgarian, Mary McGowan, Karla Roth, and Frumie Selchen; our Conference administrative assistant, Jennifer Parrott; our artist/designer, Julianne Morse; our moderators, facilitators and many wonderful volunteers for both days.

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