

# THE HEALING BRIDGE

## 2009 IN REVIEW



www.headinjuryassoc.org 631.543.2245



Left to Right: Michael Coleman, Sports Director Channel 12 News; Max Gomez, Health & Science Correspondent WCBS-TV Channel 2; Liz Giordano, Chief Executive Officer Head Injury Association; Bruce Harper, Former JET; Giovanna Drpic, Correspondent for Myg News; Rich Caster, Former JET; John Nitti, Former JET; Gerry Cooney, Former Heavyweight Contender; Renaldo Snipes, Former Heavyweight Contender; Ann Liguori, WFAN/WLIU Correspondent; Gil Hodges Jr., Son of Legendary Met; Weylan Harding, NY Dragons



Michael Coleman interviews Boxing Great, Gerry Cooney about the long term effects of Brain Injury.



Liz Giordano is joined by Monsignor Thomas Hartmann who delivered the invocation at the event.



Dr. Martin Gizzi demonstrates a device that can be used on sport sidelines to measure concussions.



Left to Right: Rich Caster, Renaldo Snipes, John Nitti and Bruce Harper.



Diane Gibson, Mother of International Recording Artist, Debbie Gibson (center) and Liz Giordano, CEO.



News 12 Sports Director Michael Coleman joins Former Jet Running Back/Kick Returner, Bruce Harper.



High School Basketball Student, Bruno Cavallo addresses High School coaches from Long Island, on the dangers of concussion.

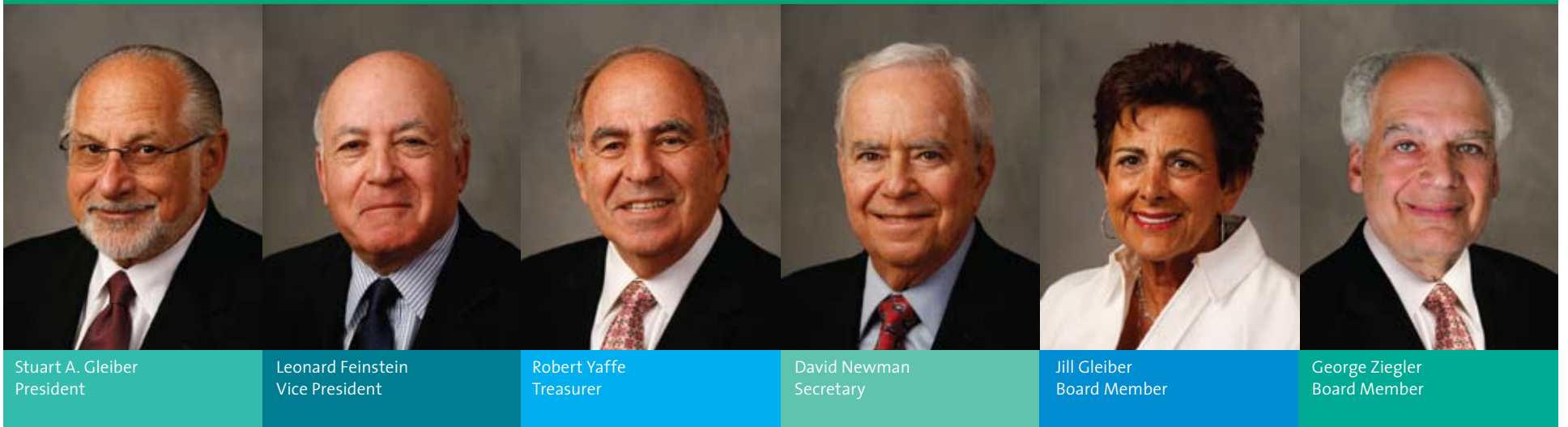
## Head Injury Awareness & Prevention Celebrity Sports Forum 2009

An audience of more than 200 athletic directors, coaches, sports trainers, league officials, medical practitioners, and parents heard both frightening statistics and new and improved methods of dealing with the growing problem of concussions and traumatic brain injuries among young athletes at a special program developed and hosted by the Head Injury Association on March 12, 2009. Dr. Max Gomez, WCBS-TV/Channel 2 News health correspondent, emceed the "Head Injury Awareness & Prevention Sports Celebrity Forum" In recognition of March being "Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Awareness Month" throughout the United States.

Among the speakers, who had personally experienced concussions or had come in contact with athletes who had suffered a head injury were boxers Gerry Cooney and Renaldo Snipes; former NY Jets football players Bruce Harper, Rich Caster and John Nitti; NY Dragons (Arena Football League) Head Coach Weylan Harding; and baseball's Gil Hodges, Jr. Experts in the field who also participated in the Forum included Dr. Martin Gizzi and Alex Widjaja, who demonstrated the TCD 55P Neurovision Device, which measures concussions on the sidelines of playing fields.

During the event, which was held at the Hyatt Wind Watch in Hauppauge, Liz Giordano, CEO Head Injury Association, stated: "A traumatic brain injury occurs approximately every 20 seconds, with a death happening every 12 minutes, In the U.S. today. In America, there are now more than five million people who suffer from a traumatic brain injury, which is defined as a blow or jolt to the head or a penetrating head injury that disrupts the function of the brain. And sports, unfortunately, play a big part in these statistics." Giordano also pointed out that among children in the U.S. from ages 0 to 14 years, there annually are 2,685 deaths, 37,000 hospitalizations and 435,000 emergency room visits due to traumatic head injuries.

The Keynote Speaker at the forum was Bruno Cavallo, a junior at Hampton Bays High School, who has suffered multiple concussions playing High School basketball. Cavallo spoke compellingly about his injuries and follow-up treatments, which kept him away from any contact sports for a substantial period of time. Also on the March 12 panel, were sportscasters Michael Coleman of News 12 Long Island and Ann Liguori of WFAN radio, as well as MYg's general assignment TV reporter Giovanna Drpic. The finale was a dynamic performance by internationally-renowned recording artist Debbie Gibson, who has been involved with the Head Injury Association for many years. Sponsors of the event were Chem RX, Herald National Bank, Vincent J. DiCalogero CPA's, LLC and Burke Supply Company.



## Meet the Board of Directors

Head Injury Association is fortunate enough to have a highly dedicated and effective Board of Director's. Founded in 1988, the Head Injury Association remains committed to it's mission of ensuring that survivors of Head Injury maximize their potential for recovery and are provided tools necessary to achieve the valued outcomes of Individualization, Independence, Integration and Productivity.

Today, the Head Injury Association has the added responsibility of increasing public awareness of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and offering solutions to the many problems facing Head Injured Survivors and their families. Recognizing the devastating impact of TBI, the Head Injury Association strives, by political and educational means, to ensure that TBI survivors have all medical and rehabilitative system requisites, to live with dignity, comfort, and respect.

## A Message from the Chief Executive Officer



### 2009... A Year of Expansion

Dear Friends:

As medical science continues to improve, more and more people are able to survive a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). Presently, there are more than 5 million people in the United States who have been diagnosed with a TBI. More than 275,000 Traumatic Brain Injuries occur each year. The challenge has become caring for this increasingly growing population. The Head Injury Association, with its residential and community-based programs, has just begun

to scratch the surface of delivering these vital services.

2009, has been a very successful year for the Head Injury Association. Growth continues throughout all of our programs. Additional group homes continue to be developed and a new program was added to Head Injury Association's array of services...the Supported Employment Project. The Supported Employment Project assists survivors with exploring and obtaining meaningful employment in integrated business environments. This program provides flexibility in order to closely match each survivor's capabilities, to a fulfilling job. Working one-to-one, the staff at the Head Injury Association offers encouragement, support and the means necessary for our survivors to achieve successful employment.

The last quarter of 2009 was most significant for the Head Injury Association. After many months of diligently searching for a new home, a building was located at 300 Kennedy Drive in Hauppauge. This space affords the Head Injury Association the opportunity to create a state-of-the-art Day Center which will become the new home for both the Hy Feinstein Clubhouse and the Winetsky Bridges Day Center.

As we approach this Holiday Season, I would remind each and every one, to remember the Head Injury Association. For your convenience, we have enclosed a holiday appeal gift envelope. Hopefully, you will take the time from your busy schedule to contribute to this most worthy cause. For it is through your dollars, that hundreds of TBI Survivors have been given opportunities that otherwise would not have been possible.

Thank you for making the Head Injury Association a bridge to hope and healing.

Sincerely,

Liz Giordano, CEO

## A Message from the President



Sometime our light goes out but is blown into flame by another human being. Each of us owes our deepest thanks to those who have rekindled this light....

Since our first dream of a Clubhouse and Residential programs in the early 1990's we quickly came to realize that no matter how much effort we put into building facilities, our dreams would remain just that if we could not surround TBI survivors with the finest, most professional, dedicated and caring staff.

But developing staff for our landmark Clubhouse and Residential programs had no precedence to draw upon. There were so many different services needed to be provided. How and where would we begin? As we have grown, so have our challenges.

The answers continually come through the vision of our Board of Directors, the guidance and sensitivity of our Chief Executive Officer, Liz Giordano, the devotion of our remarkable and caring program directors and our multitalented administrators. Together, they created sophisticated training criteria and the most demanding quality assurance guidelines ensuring survivors every opportunity to maximize their goals and quality of life. Yesterday and in the future with devotion and teamwork we shall continue to turn our dreams into reality.

Our direct care staff, each one an unsung hero, brings heartfelt compassion to their profession and the lives of TBI survivors. Every day of the week, direct care staff turn tears into smiles and sadness into laughter in our residential and day programs. The names of these heroes are rarely mentioned, but the soul of the world would be a much darker place without them. They rekindle the light...

What your heart gives is never gone. It is forever kept in the hearts of others...

Sincerely,

Stuart A. Gleiber, President

# Growth...

The Head Injury Association is pleased and proud to announce its relocation to 300 Kennedy Drive in Hauppauge. This site will be “HOME” to the Hy Feinstein Clubhouse, the Winetsky Bridges Day Center, and also serve as our corporate headquarters. Our new home, will afford us the opportunity to implement quality programs while continuing to expand. 300 Kennedy Drive, will require renovations in order to meet the needs of our survivors. As a result, we have established a timeline, which will allow us to move in 2011.

We look forward, with great enthusiasm, to relocating to our new home!



Head Injury Association Finds a New Home

## Bed Bath and Beyond Visits The Head Injury Association

Survivors at Clubhouse and Bridges Day Programs were visited by an enthusiastic group of employees from Bed Bath & Beyond. The Bed Bath & Beyond team continues to provide annual support through fundraising and solicitation. Much of their solicitation results in special items that enrich the lives of TBI survivors residing in our Group Homes and Day Programs.



The Bed Bath & Beyond is excited to see the wonderful things going on at the Head Injury Association.

## Take Me Out To The Ballgame

A special recreational event, “Take me out to the ballgame”, was held at the Hy Feinstein Clubhouse Day Program. Survivors enjoyed a program sponsored by “Winning Beyond Winning”. “Winning Beyond Winning” is a not for profit organization dedicated to the career development of young athletes. On this particular day the survivors and staff were able to meet and greet three former athletes: Ryne Duren, Former New York Yankee pitching legend; Jon Warden Former pitcher for the Detroit Tigers; Judy Sladky, A former Olympian ice skater

who also plays the role of Alice Snuffleupagus on Sesame Street and Snoopy in Snoopy’s Musical on Ice.

The program hosted by Tom Sabellico who introduced the celebrities and their families. A sing along was held to the tune of, “Take Me Out To The Ball Game” while lunch was enjoyed. Each survivor was given a baseball which the former athletes autographed. Many friends and fond memories were made that day.



Jon Warden of the 1968 World Series Champion, Detroit Tigers; autographs baseballs at the Head Injury Association.

## Paws & Hearts

Unconditional Love...Pet Therapy. The introduction of animals into the patients’ environment is a way of humanizing health care. Research shows that pet therapy reduces emotional and physical pain; it also helps to diminish boredom and anxiety while creating a gentle and safe environment. When a pet is in the environment, the environment becomes less stressful and more nurturing. Community programs that bring animals and people together for companionship and therapy are rapidly growing. Here, at the Head Injury Association, we are involved with North-Shore Animal League, Bide-a-Wee and Dog Therapy Institute.



TBI Survivors enjoy some “puppy love” courtesy of the North Shore Animal League.

## TBI Survivors Train Service Dogs for the Disabled...

East Coast Assistance Dog (ECAD) Program is an organization that enables people with disabilities to gain greater independence and mobility through the use of specially trained, loving and confident young dogs. ECAD teaches Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Survivors, to train dogs to address the specific needs of the disabled. This year, the specially trained dogs were given to injured veterans to help them rehabilitate and improve their lives.

# Head Injury Association holds its 24th Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Celebrities were seen at the Piping Rock Club on June 24th, as more than 100 golfers participated in Head Injury Association's 24th Annual Charity Golf Tournament. Former Jets Rich Caster and John Nitti, were among the professional athletes that came out to support this event. Also seen on the course was Gil Hodges Jr., son of the 69 Miracle Mets' Manager.

The event's Chairman, Dave Newman was spotted practicing on the driving range with Gerry Cooney, former heavyweight boxer. David Weiss of both 1010 WINS Radio and TV 10/55's weatherman, held up the rain for a successful day. This exciting event was enhanced by WFAN Radio celebrity, Ann Liguori, who emceed the program. A highlight of this program was the keynote speech delivered by Traumatic Brain Injury Survivor, James McDonough, who recapped his terrible ordeal as a result of a car accident.

The success of this year's event was attributed to outstanding sponsorship. Sponsors included Bed Bath and Beyond, S. Lichtenberg & Company, U.S. Trust Company, Inc. and Vincent DiCalogero, LLC. In addition, Bed Bath and Beyond generously donated the very attractive golf shirts that were in each participant's gift bag. Much of the event's success is attributed to a very hard working committee. Accolades to Bonnie Fenster, Jill Gleiber, Enid Newman, Trisha Ramdoo and Erica Stearns.



Former Jets John Nitti and Rich Caster join CEO, Liz Giordano at the 24th Annual Golf Tournament.



Traumatic Brain Injury Survivor James, is surrounded by members of the tournament committee Jill Gleiber and Enid Newman. Head Injury Association Staff Ron Baker and Dr. Stanley Goldstein offer James support as he delivers an inspirational speech during the luncheon.



Board President Stu Gleiber and Board member Jill Gleiber join Dr. Stanley Goldstein for a day of fun at Piping Rock Club.