Happy Birthday, GCH!
On Thursday, September 23rd, the Children’s Hospital turned One Year Old. And in typical pediatric fashion, the GCH threw its own first birthday party in the Treehouse. There were games, toys, cupcakes, GCH cookies, balloons, lots of media (including the Crier), and a schedule full of exciting events. Introduced by President Smith, our Chairman Dr. Welch led the crowd in singing Happy Birthday (yes, really). Lulu the Clown came and entertained the kids (and adults), Daphne the Dog made an appearance, and even a Traveling Zoo found its way into the Treehouse to help the celebration. It was a great party thanks to the many people who made it happen (too numerous to list). Even more importantly, it was a wonderful way to celebrate the first year of Syracuse’s very own Children’s Hospital.

Tanks A Lot!
As you may have noticed, the GCH now has its very own fish tank (near the 12th floor special display area) thanks to the generosity and hard work of Rebecca Anbar. Dr. Anbar told the Crier, “Rebecca, chose to make raising money for the fish tank as her Bat Mitzvah project. She started raising funds when she was 11, and completed her collection when she became 13. All told, she raised over $10,000! We had to wait until the Children's Hospital opened last December to order the tank. The tank holds 225 gallons of water, and weighs close to a ton. Currently, Rebecca and I are stocking the tank with fish every weekend. Our goal is that there will be approximately 40 fish in the tank. We need to stock it slowly so that the fish can adapt. Also, we ordered an automatic feeder and an automatic timer for the lights for the tank that are on back order. So, currently, the automatic feeder is Dr. Anbar, who can be seen near the fish tank at least twice a day, including weekends!”

Thank you so much, Rebecca and your automatic feeder dad for this wonderful gift to the GCH!

Pediatrics in the Treehouse
Our teaching day for medical students was a huge success. Our chief resident, Akaber ElKhamra gives this full report:

“On the beautiful day of Sept.11, 2010, the GCH held its first annual medical student teaching day. It included a host of lectures delivered by our prominent educators including our Chairman, Dr. Thomas Welch, our international professor, Dr. Brad Olson, our creative enthusiastic pediatric cardiologist Dr. Frank Smith, and our beloved neonatologist Dr. Bob Hingre. After a morning full of intriguing mind-challenging lectures, we went on to an afternoon of workshops that aimed at showing off pediatric skills at their best. These workshops included a resuscitation course led by our Peds ED assistant professor, Dr. Jennifer Mackey and our program director, Dr. John Andrake. There was also a GI workshop by Dr. Prateek Wali and a hypnosis workshop by Dr. Ran Anbar. Dr. Andrake concluded the day with a session on how to choose a pediatric residency program. All throughout the day, Dr. Ann Botash and Dr. Gloria Kennedy, and several residents [editor’s note: as well as both chief residents] were there to contribute to the success of this day by answering questions during lunch or at the concluding session. Tours of the GCH were also given after lunch. All in all, it was a high yield day full of pediatric topics and workshops that would help students make life-changing decisions. I cannot wait to see what we are going to do next year.”

Serving the Underserved in California
Editor’s Note: The Crier recently learned that our very own former resident, Sabiha Hussain has been working in an underserved practice about 100 miles north of Los Angeles. When asked to share her experiences there, she sent the following:

My Experience in a Medically Underserved Clinic
Sabiha Hussain
They say one thing leads to another and you finally wind up where you are meant to be. I truly feel like every connection I made during my medical training both prepared me for and led me to where I am currently working in a non-profit medically underserved clinic in Bakersfield California.

The challenges of working with a medically underserved population are unique in that you are oftentimes managing very complex patients without the advantage of subspecialist availability
and also seeing patients who present for care very late with advanced pathology. The local hospitals too do not have the training or experience to manage complex pediatric cases and it becomes the physician’s judgment call about when to send the patients to far off tertiary care hospitals and when to manage things independently.

During my training in Syracuse I realized that whatever decision I made regarding my future area of practice, I would need to be comfortable managing complex cases. I remember rotating through the NICU and seeing a baby with a horribly discolored black gangrenous looking ear. Infectious diseases was consulted and within a few days that ear looked almost normal after the baby was treated for a fungal infection. I was amazed! During my PICU rotation a child was admitted with an overwhelming pseudomonas infection that appeared out of nowhere. Infectious diseases was consulted and an explanation came forth in a diagnosis of severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID). Infectious diseases seemed to have not only the answers but also most of the time, the solution. It felt very rewarding and I made up my mind; I was going to pursue an infectious diseases fellowship.

Towards the end of my infectious diseases fellowship while planning to attend a conference in San Francisco, I came to hear about a medically underserved job in Bakersfield California. I visited the clinic and loved it instantly. It seemed a perfect fit. And since I joined approximately four years ago I have felt that everything I learned and did during my training was especially designed to make me the kind of physician that my patients here need. Every ounce of my training has been put to the test here and it has been an incredibly gratifying experience. My patients and I remain deeply indebted and grateful to the excellent training, teachers and guidance I received along the way.

Pancakes for El Salvador
Want a great excuse to eat guilt-free pancakes? The Crier received the following from Joe Domachowske: “My daughter Elizabeth convinced Applebees (Erie Blvd in Dewitt) to sponsor an all you can eat pancake breakfast as a fund raiser for her trip to El Salvador in Feb 2011. Date: Sunday October 24, Time: 8-10 am, Cost: $5 per ticket. El Salvador gets $4 for every ticket sold. If you would like tickets, or would like to offer a donation for the effort, please see me. Its fun. They even let me do some of the cooking. We will be collecting medical and home health supplies gain this year. All contributions are most appreciated. Thanks! JD”

Welcome Abby McCrone
The Crier received this note from Alison McCrone:
Just wanted to share the good news! This is my new cutie pie Abby (Abigail Ann McCrone) 7 pounds 11 oz on Aug 12 and everyone is doing well! Her two big brothers adore her (so far! But I've got my eye on the two year old....;) Thanks, Alison"

Welcome Kaylee Margaret Vogelsang
Congratulations to Kim Vogelsang for the birth of her beautiful baby girl Kaylee Margaret on 9/9/10 at 7 lb; 13 oz. Kim sent us the following:
“Hi everyone. As you all heard, I delivered a 7 pound 13 ounce baby on September 9th. Her name is Kaylee Margaret. She is absolutely beautiful. Many of you were aware of all of the stress and worry caused by an abnormal ultrasound finding during the pregnancy and I just wanted to let you know that she is HEALTHY and PERFECT! I really wanted to thank everyone for their support, especially the PICU attendings, during those unnecessarily stressful months. All of my prayers were answered and my husband and I couldn't be happier. There are no words to describe the love you have for your child. I miss all of you and hope everyone is well. I am forwarding you pictures that my grandfather took at the hospital... Best Regards, Kim”
Again, congratulations, Kim!

The CureSearch Walk
Don’t forget the CureSearch Walk on October 2nd. It’s not too late to donate online. Here’s the scoop from Team Captain Gloria Kennedy: “Curesearch, the public face of COG or Children's Oncology Group, is holding their first ever CNY fund raiser. The event is a walk at the Fairgrounds on October 2nd. It was organized by some of our patients' moms and is really a grassroots effort. Nonetheless we would like to make it a big success, not only for the funding that would come back to our center, but more importantly to get the word out of the great successes being made in children's cancer treatment through COG trials and the availability of these state of the art treatment trials right here in Syracuse. Please consider joining us for the walk or making a small contribution. Go to http://www.curesearchwalk.org/faf/search/searchTeamPart.asp?ievent=432457&lis=1&ktntae=432457=54F5E55C60814E19B4A1EE70CADEC4B6&supId=0&team=3811035&cj=Y and click on Syracuse for details on the walk. We are Team Upstate! (Pretty creative, huh?) Thank you, Gloria Kennedy, Team Upstate Captain”

Pediatric Star-of-the-Month
By Lisa Blystone
This month's Pediatric All-Star is Tri Nguyen because of the amazing care and personal concern that he showed for a fellow resident in a time of real need. He is a model to us all, and a true star. Tri - please stop in the Pediatric offices at your leisure and contact either Patty Mondore or Lisa Blystone (464-7600) to pick out a prize from the Stars treasure chest.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS
10/9 Marium Gill
10/11 Katharine Chang, Sue Sheffield
10/15 Alicia Pekarsky
10/16 Vicki Keeler
10/21 Kate Robinson
10/22 Howard Weinberger
10/23 Frank Smith