

*Farmington Valley*

## **Hospital For Special Care Hosts Charity Art Show**

**Regional**

***Courant.com iTowns***

*Submitted by Susan Gates on 11-26-2008.*

Although at heart a cartoonist all his life, Ray Andrews is better known for his several "day jobs," including his work as an attorney and long-time involvement in health care, human services and philanthropic governance. But it is his work as a cartoonist and illustrator that was featured in "OBSERVATION(S)", a Collection of Cartoon Comment(s) by Ray Andrews at the Hospital for Special Care.



Photo of Ray Andrews speaking at the opening of his Charity Art Show to benefit Hospital for Special Care's "Joy of Art!" program.

The exhibit features pieces in pen and ink and marker and all works are for sale with the proceeds to benefit the Hospital for Special Care's Joy of Art! program. Joy of Art! offers patients the opportunity to select and rotate artwork for their rooms and common areas of the hospital. The program hosts four to six in-house art exhibitions for patients and families, visitors, staff, and members of the community and does fund-raising through commission proceeds of sold exhibition artwork.

Andrews has played many roles during his life, a graduate of West Point and Harvard Law School, he served in the United States Army as an artillery officer and then practiced law, chiefly business and health law, in Hartford CT with the firm of Robinson & Cole. Andrews also acted as legal counsel to the former New Britain Memorial Hospital and has been a board member of Hospital for Special Care and of its parent, Center of Special Care, for many years. He has served on - and occasionally chaired - several committees and was chairman of either the Hospital or the Center board for a total of seven years. His exhibit of cartoons shows a different side of Ray Andrews, perhaps the inside.

After almost a quarter century of practice he "got it right" and left law to embark upon cartooning. But he was detoured for fourteen years by a court appointment as trustee of the Donaghue Medical Research Foundation in West Hartford CT, from which post he recently retired, eager to once again pick up pen, paper and puckishness.

Over the years, cartoons by Ray Andrews did occasionally see the light of day in spite of the distractions of his other lives. He was declared "Cartoonist Extraordinaire" at Harvard Law School for his contributions to the school paper and has been published in the Boston Globe and Hartford Courant. He has executed many commissioned caricatures (several Hospital for Special Care personalities have fallen victim) and has

illustrated several books, all, as they say, on the side. His ubiquitous "GEORGE" has decorated the corridors of HSC for several years.