

# PHELPS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

## News and Notes

Jan-Feb 2008

Now on the web at <http://www.phelpshospital.org/auxiliary/index.php>

EDITED by JIM REIDY



### Phelps Memorial Hospital Center President & CEO's New Year's Message

Please accept my warmest thanks for your outstanding work in 2007. Our Auxilians and Volunteers help Phelps in many ways and we truly appreciate your efforts. 2007 was a year of outstanding accomplishments that culminated with our impressive Joint Commission survey results.

All of you deserve to share in the credit for these accomplishments. Volunteers and Auxilians contribute substantially to Phelps being an excellent hospital. Your special contribution to our care is appreciated by Administration, the Board of Directors, the Medical Staff, 1,400 employees, and most importantly, our patients.

I want to offer my sincerest thanks to all of you for your efforts over the past year. We know that we can continue to depend on you in the future. Happy New Year!

Keith F. Safian, FACHE  
President and C. E. O.  
Phelps Memorial Hospital Center

### Rest In Peace

It is with deep regret that we report on the passing of Dr. Jack Safian, Keith Safian's father, of Longwood, Florida, on December 21st. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Harriet, his son, Keith, daughters Shelly and Gail, and several grandchildren.

Our hearts go out to all.

### Warm and Cozy - Annual Auxiliary Party

By Jim Goldsmith

"Good things come in small packages" is an old saying that fit the Auxiliary Holiday party exactly. With a lower than usual turnout, people actually got a chance to socialize and talk to each other instead of being uncomfortable and somewhat crammed in. That plus the fact that there was some food left over for anyone to take home for a snack the next day.



There were the usual helpers without whom we couldn't have had the James House set up and looking so festive. Warm thanks go to Kevin Byrne, V.P. of Human Resources who helped set up the tables and chairs along with Rob Makai. The decorating was done by Nancy Eichorn, Mary Kay Olson, Marguerite Klein, Helen Chanowsky and, of course, Eva Marie Dahling. Marguerite Klein once again will deliver our collected canned goods to the homeless and Anne Caldara again headed our Toys for Tots collection. Anne Obuck made sure everyone had a raffle ticket and for the eighth year in a row, I did not win anything. There's always next year.

Kevin Byrne and Bruce Davidow, Senior V.P. and COO of Phelps joined us. They are both members of the Auxiliary and as such are always more than welcome.





## President's Message

*Jim Goldsmith, Auxiliary President*

### *Happy New Year to All*

First of all let me wish all of the Auxiliary, their family and friends a very happy and most of all a very healthy holiday and New Year. A lot of us volunteer at the hospital so we can see first hand just how important good health is, and the passing of so many of our volunteer friends this past year makes it even more important.

That said, what happened to the heat and warm weather? In the middle of summer you hear so many people talk of wanting the cold weather to arrive (I am not one of them. I love the heat and humidity.) and now that it's here, all they want is the heat back. This is good, because when the heat comes back, so will be finished our new Emergency Department with our state of the art Emergency Room. The blasting and pounding goes on daily with little or no effect on any of the patients as workers and administrative personnel look for a September 2008 opening. Most of us have seen the plans for the new ER, and as much as we don't ever want to come to an ER, this one looks to be spectacular! Meanwhile other areas of the hospital are opening, such as the new outside parking lot across from the 755 building, and the much anticipated opening of the hospital's main road to it's main building and the 755 building. So much going on!

Phelps has also opened its Outpatient Rehab area to the public as an exercise center and health Club and its Davis rehabilitation pool too. Hours for the public are posted so as not to interfere with the patient's use of both facilities. This is a terrific deal for those of us who always put off joining a health club because it was either too expensive or too far away.

We will be having our next bake sale sometime in late March or early April for those of you who have asked, and although you will receive an invitation at a later date, don't forget to put aside the second Monday in April for our Annual Meeting and tea, with installation of new officers and voting on our updated by-laws, which you will hear about in a later correspondence.

### **In Memoriam**

**Mary McCoy**, of Tarrytown, NY, died on October 24, 2007. Mary began volunteering in 1991 and worked at the Information Desk throughout her entire volunteer "career", until her retirement in 2004. Mary was very dedicated to her responsibilities and we were very sorry to lose her when she moved away from the area.

**Frances Seoane** died October 18, 2007 at the age of 98. Frances began volunteering in 1984 and worked at the Information Desk for 20 years, until her retirement in 2004. Frances was a member of the Auxiliary and extremely dedicated to volunteering. It was a sad day when Frances decided to retire.

### **Welcome to our newest volunteers!!**

Sam Cooper - Hastings-on-Hudson  
Transport

Betty Seideman - Ossining  
Transport

Wagih Ibrahim - Port Chester  
Orthopedics

Daisy Escalante - Sleepy Hollow  
Infant Hearing Screening

### ***A Little Local History***

*By Dennis Corcoran*

Did you know the most historic event in the history of Westchester County took place about three miles from Phelps Memorial Hospital on September 23, 1780. It was the capture of Major John Andre by three Patriots in Tarrytown during the American Revolution. You say who was John Andre? Well, I think we have all heard of Benedict Arnold, the most famous traitor in American history. Andre was Arnold's British collaborator when Arnold, after a heroic career as an American officer in the

American army, became disenchanted with the American cause and decided to turn over the West Point fortification to the British. His plan was foiled when three local militiamen captured Andre in Tarrytown with the plans of the West Point fortifications in his boot. Today the historic event is memorialized with Patriots Park in Tarrytown opposite the entrance to Sleepy Hollow High School. If Arnold had succeeded the British would have seized control of the Hudson River and probably won the Revolutionary War.

If you are interested and would like to know more, we conduct a bus tour every year as part of the Ramble experience in September that tells the whole story and includes a luncheon at the place where Andre was imprisoned in Tappan, New York. My phone number is 914-769-8819 and my email is [djmenace2@horizon.net](mailto:djmenace2@horizon.net).



Benedict Arnold



John Andre



### **We are looking for YOU..**

The newsletter committee is always looking for people to help out by writing articles and bringing in fresh ideas. If you'd like to become a member, please contact Jim Reidy at (914) 271-5403.



A horse walked into a bar. The bartender asked, "Why the long face?"

A man walked into a bar and said, "Ouch!"

A mushroom went to a bar. The bartender said, "We don't serve your kind here". The mushroom replied, "Why not? I'm, a fungi!"

## **GIFT SHOP LOBBY SALES**

*Schedule courtesy of Iris Hill*

### **January, 2008**

Wed	1/28	Exile CD's
Mon	1/28	Time Plus Watches
Thurs	1/31	Angel's Gold Jewelry

### **February, 2008**

Fri	2/01	Janettina, Topiary Soaps
Tues	2/05	Sports Memorabilia
Wed	2/06	Lillian Wetzel Jewelry
Thurs	2/07	Melvia Sportswear
Fri	2/08	Classy Karat Jewelry
Wed	2/13	Silver Dreams Sterling Jewelry
Thurs	2/14	Echo Linens
Wed	2/20	Applause Fashions
Fri	2/22	Angielyn's Scrubs
Wed	2/27	Tupperware

### **Welcome to the Newest Auxilians**

Eileen Ghastin and Linda Heusser

### **Upcoming Auxiliary Board Meetings**

January 16th and February 20th at 9:00 in the Board Room.

### **Auxiliary Completes is Donation to the Phelps Emergency Department Fund**

*By Jim Goldsmith*

The Auxiliary has paid it's final \$50,000 to the new Emergency Department, thus completing it's pledge to donate \$500,000 over the past five years. As you know, when the capital campaign was first announced to build the new ED, your Auxiliary was the first significant donor to come forward with it's half a million dollar pledge.

Through the fund raising efforts of the Gift Shop, the Cherry Door, the James House, countless Bake and Craft sales, and other smaller fund raising events, we not only managed to satisfy that pledge, but were also able to donate significant amounts each year to the hospital for other purchases. This year will be no exception.

We will have approximately \$80,000 to donate. We are working very closely with Bruce Davidow, Senior VP and COO of Phelps as to where to best allocate the money.

One idea Mr. Davidow suggested was the proposed updating of a new main entrance of the hospital. Total cost for this could be paid by the Auxiliary with another four or five year pledge which will be discussed at our next meeting. Naturally if we do decide to undertake this task, there would be a recognition plaque in the new entrance giving the Auxiliary credit.

We will let you know more in the next News & Notes.



### **Better Living Through (and in spite of) Technology**

*By Jim Reidy*

I love gadgets, especially ones that make life easier. I've written in this column about phones, lighting controls, and remote controls. These are the kinds of things that can help us boomers (and beyond) continue to live a comfortable and relatively convenient life. I've stayed away from talk of computers because it can be a daunting subject. But with prices coming down all the time, choices of service ever increasing, and the ease of use improving, maybe it's time to address the issue.

As a "gadget-freak" I've always had the newest of everything. When personal computers were first introduced in the early 80's, you know I had one. Those computers did little more than today's cheapest calculators. Even cell phones today are more powerful than the "state of the art" home computer of the early 80's. With Windows based and Apple's IMac machines, anyone can use a computer. They all come with some basic writing programs like Word, and most now come with software that allow you to send and received emails and "surf" the internet.

This can all be intimidating to the unfamiliar person, but it shouldn't be something you choose not to buy because of the complexity. The programmers have made the computers so easy to use, even the novice can be up and running with little instruction.

Best Buy has a system available consisting of a computer, 17" monitor (the TV screen) and a printer, all for about \$380.00. It comes with a DVD burner which allows you to save your movies, pictures, music or nearly anything else to a 5" disc. It includes all you need to get up and running, except internet service. That you have to get on your own. We'll save that discussion for the next edition. Stay tuned!!

### **A Van for the Cherry Door**

*By Jim Goldsmith*

In case you didn't know it, the Cherry Door has been doing so well, that Dominique Picon, the manager, requested the Auxiliary to purchase a used van in order to be able to pick up, and at times deliver, merchandise.

In discussions with hospital management, it was decided that the Cherry Door might be better served renting a van two days a week (more if necessary) rather than undertaking the liability issue in case of an accident.

A favorable rental arrangement was worked out with a local renting agency and we will start using the van immediately.

This should make the sales of large pieces of furniture much more of a reality as Dominique can now schedule pick ups on a timely manner over weekends when both he and the donators will be available. It will also allow him to make certain deliveries of sold merchandise, at a fee, if requested by the purchaser.

The Cherry Door sales have never been better, and it is a credit to Dominique and all the volunteers who work at the Cherry Door who have accomplished this.

Can an eighteen wheeler be next ???

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## *Pam's Corner*

*By Pam Cardozo*

Thank you, thank you to our friends from Congregation Sons of Israel for again offering to volunteer at our Information Desk on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. This is a wonderful act of kindness and allows our volunteers to take time off to enjoy the Holidays with their families. Some of our regular volunteers will also be coming in over the Holidays and, as always, we thank them too!

We'd also like to extend another big Thank You to our local Garden Clubs who come every year to decorate the Christmas trees around the Hospital. We are always receiving compliments about how festive the trees look throughout the hallways, so we are passing these along to the Garden Club volunteers!

We are celebrating the Holidays with a special gift for all our volunteers, a white sweatshirt with red lettering, identifying all our "caring experts"..... Phelps volunteers. Hopefully these shirts will keep everyone toasty warm and convey our gratitude for all that our volunteers do for us.

Joint Commission Survey – The Joint Commission Accreditation Survey went extremely well. The surveyors commented that our staff and volunteers were "outstanding, honest and forthright" and described Phelps as "an honest and open organization". Thank you to all of the volunteers who dressed so professionally, wore your IDs and carried out your responsibilities with such dedication.

'Tis the flu season and we'd like to remind our volunteers that flu shots are still available at the Employee Health office. Please call 366-3160 to make an appointment. We want you all to stay well!

We're always looking for new volunteers like you, and for every one you bring us we'll put a little something extra in your stocking!

### ***Corrections***

In last month's "Bake Sale" article, we forgot to thank Helen Chanowsky for her help. So - thank you, Helen, for your constant support.

Also, in the list of members who donated additional money to the Auxiliary in addition to their dues, "John Ceconi" should have read "Joan Ceconi". We apologize for the error and thank you for your donation.

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**\*\* Photos by Jim Goldsmith \*\***

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