

# PHELPS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

## News and Notes

Sep-Oct 2008

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

EDITED by JIM REIDY

### President's Message

*Rose Mary Parisi, Auxiliary President*



"Welcome Back" from a really short summer, everyone. It did fly by. I hope you all had Fun! Although the News & Notes takes the summer off, the Volunteer Services do not. We are always open and working. So, if you have any free time to offer, questions to ask or even suggestions to make do not

hesitate to call or come by the Volunteer office.

Now that summer is over, it's back to business as usual. A thank you goes to Pam Cardozo, our Volunteer Director, for our Surf & Turf Luncheon at the James House Mansion with entertainment by the White Plains Barbershop Quartet (a really good show).

It is a wonderful time to be a part of Phelps and a member of the Auxiliary because all that is contributed is "here and now" with many exciting add-ons to benefit our patients, the latest being the Emergency Department which will open in November of this year. You may remember that the Auxiliary made the first contribution to the New Emergency Department's pledge of \$500,000 last year. I am proud to report that we reached that goal!

I was recently asked by a concerned patient where the Auxiliary monies come from. I proudly listed the following: Our Gift Shop, our Cherry Door Thrift Shop, our James House Mansion, our cake sales and dues collected from all of our Auxiliary members.

Look for your chance to win a free ticket to the Champagne Ball in this issue.

### New ER Completion on Schedule



A view of the construction of the new Phelps ER

The construction of the new Emergency Department at Phelps Memorial Hospital is right on schedule. If you've spent any time at the hospital you will have noticed new routes through the lower floors, new entrances around the construction areas and a whole flurry of activity.

The dedication and opening of the new emergency department is scheduled for November 3, 2008, from 6-9PM which will be a proud moment for Phelps and will mean a substantial improvement in the speed, quality, privacy and efficiency of care for our ever growing community. Make plans to attend. It should be a wonderful event. The new ER will be open to visitors. You will be able to get a first hand view of the new facility. Mark your calendars!



### Phelps Volunteer Receives Ossining Rotary Award

On June 29, Joan Lederman, a Phelps volunteer for 29 years and a long-time Ossining resident, was awarded the Arthur DiPillo/Joseph Indusi Community Service Award by the Ossining Rotary Club at a dinner held at GE in Ossining. Pam Cardozo, Director of Volunteer Services, was present to offer congratulations. Joan started volunteering in 1979 and has been a most devoted member of our volunteer team, donating almost 6,500 hours since that time.

Joan has worked in our Emergency Room, EKG and the Information Desk and certainly has lived up to the Rotary Club motto, "Service Above Self," in every way. As a volunteer, Joan greets patients and families, who are often anxious as they enter the hospital, and has always been available to soothe those in need of a little compassionate care. Her ready smile and knack for putting people at ease are characteristic of her warm personality. We are very proud of Joan and congratulate her on this well-deserved recognition. **Congratulations Joan!**

## ***Lord and Taylor***

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**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2008**

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**\*\* GO EARLY - STAY LATE \*\***

**THERE ARE MANY SPECIAL EVENTS**

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**FASHION, AUTHORS AND BOOK**

**SIGNINGS,**

**CHILDREN'S EVENTS,**

**SPECIAL SAVINGS AND MUCH MORE.**



## **Better Living through**

(and in spite of)

## **Technology**

By Jim Reidy

OK, so I bought a computer. Now what????

The most common use of a personal home computer (and maybe workplace computers as well) is sending and receiving emails (the bane of the US Postal Service). However, to do so requires connecting to the "Internet". The Internet was a system originally developed to allow governmental agencies to communicate with each other even though they had different types of computers that spoke different "languages". Once it was successful, it was opened up to the US public and ultimately to the world (hence the www. or World Wide Web). There are several services, known as ISP's (Internet Service Providers) that can give you access. There is "dial-up", an older technology that is slow and cumbersome and requires a phone line and a modem (Modulate-Demodulate). Next up (in my opinion) is DSL (Digital Subscriber Line). This is an access system offered by the phone companies which allows your service to be sent over existing land-line phone lines. Your local phone company can provide this for you.

The fastest system so far for home use is cable internet service. In our local area this is provided by Cablevision (as Optonline) or Time Warner Cable (as Road Runner). Both are three to five times faster than DSL and 10-50 times faster than dial-up. Emails often include pictures, movies or music as attachments (just like having separate documents included with your primary letter in the "olden days"). You need a FAST connection (or a lot of patience) to receive and send emails with attachments. Cable is best (*sometimes* problematic). DSL is second (most reliable because the phone companies seldom fail) and the dial-up (UGH!! So slow).

Want more answers?? Email me at [newjwr@optonline.net](mailto:newjwr@optonline.net) or fax me at 203-672-2276. (No - you can't have my phone number!!!!)

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

*By Dennis Corcoran*

## ***History of the Phelps Memorial Hospital Center - Part III***

You will recall from our last installment that Anson Phelps, Sr's great grandson, Arthur Curtis James, had re-acquired the 66 acre Phelps Place from the Presbyterian Mission Board in 1921. James and his wife, Harriet, still maintained their primary residence in New York City and also kept a summer residence in Newport as well as a winter home in Florida. Nevertheless, they loved their country retreat at Phelps Place and spent a good deal of time entertaining guests from all over the world. The property also included a 12 room superintendent's house, a six-room bungalow, a large garage with two four-room apartments above it and a tennis court. They renamed it James House, restored the building and furnished it with valuable antiques and period pieces.

The couple had no children and died within three weeks of each other in May of 1941. Trustees of the estate sold most of the family's possessions but kept the property and established the James Foundation for charitable purposes. A lot of the wealth went to worthy educational and cultural causes but it is believed that James had indicated to the trustees that he was interested in donating the property for the establishment of a new hospital. The Ossining Hospital and the Tarrytown Hospital were now inadequate and officials from both facilities were interested in building one hospital at a central location to replace them. The James Foundation offered its 66 acres in 1949 with an additional \$500,000 cash grant providing two conditions were met - the cash grant had to be matched by the community and the new hospital be named Phelps Memorial, in memory of Anson Green Phelps, Sr.

The medical staffs of both community hospitals voted unanimously for their merger and the money was raised through the community along with the invaluable assistance of the Rockefeller family. The Rockefellers had insisted that the James House not be torn down because William Rockefeller's 205 room mansion, Rockwood Hall, which was right next door had been razed

*(Continued on page 3)*

## GIFT SHOP LOBBY SALES

Schedule courtesy of Iris Hill

### SEPTEMBER

Thurs	9/4	Melvia Sportswear
Fri.	9/5	D & D Jewelry
Fri.	9/12	Save on Socks
Wed.	9/17	Tupperware
Fri.	9/17	Exile CD's
Wed.	9/24	Tastefully Simple
Thurs.	9/25	Activewear Plus
Fri.	9/26	Full of Sheets

### OCTOBER

Thurs.	10/2	Lillian Wetzel Jewelry
Fri.	10/2	Angielyn's Scrubs
Mon.	10/20	Sock Exchange
Wed.	10/22	Silver Dreams Jewelry
Thurs.	10/23	Books are Fun
Fri.	10/24	Books are Fun
Tues.	10/28	The Glove Lady

## A little local History (Cont'd)

because of the Depression. The Rockefeller family also contributed \$1.25 million with the remaining money coming from the community.

The new hospital's cornerstone was laid in 1954 and a Nurses' Residence cornerstone in 1955. The hospital opened to patients on January 7, 1956. Over 10,000 area residents toured the facility on opening day.

(Note- Partially excerpted from the article, *Phelps Place: A Historical Overview*, written by Richard Gerber and James Hoe as part of the 1995 Champagne Ball Program.



## A Bit of Light Humor

Submitted by Rose Marie Parisi

How do you make a hot dog stand? Take away his chair.

Did you hear that the world's tallest man got fired from the circus? He was concerned about his cholesterol, he switched from butter to Crisco. Unfortunately, he didn't realize it was shortening.

A new government study has found that the average American car weighs 500 pounds more than it did ten years ago. However, this is only true if the average American is sitting in the car.



## 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) 271-1604.

## Upcoming Auxiliary Board Meetings

9/17 and 10/15 at 9:00AM in the Board Room.

## Welcome to the Newest Auxilians

Courtesy of Nancy Eichorn

JoAnne Moroney  
Lynda M. Neary  
Nancy Pitzel

## Welcome to our newest volunteers!!

Courtesy of Pat Makai

Peggy Kraft ..... Sleepy Hollow  
Trudy Neuhoff ..... Tarrytown  
Mary Bittles ..... Tarrytown  
Linda Grauer ..... Peekskill  
Elly Sell ..... Sleepy Hollow  
Geum Gim ..... Thornwood  
Michael Biglow.....Cortland Manor

## In Memoriam

### JEAN SAMILSON

Jean passed away on July 2nd, at 83, after a brief illness. She is survived by her three children, eight grand-children, and one great-grandchild. She was a long time resident of Tarrytown and New York City before moving to San Diego recently. In Tarrytown she was a volunteer at Phelps Memorial Hospital and for the Girl Scouts.

### ROSALIND G. PELLETIER

Rosalind died on July 5th at the age of 96. For the past two years she resided at Kendal on Hudson in Sleepy Hollow. She was active with many organizations and was a member of the Phelps Auxiliary. She is survived by three step-children.

## News and Notes Sep-Oct 2008 Vol. X No. 4

### Editorial Staff and Contributors

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\*\*\* Photos courtesy of Jim Goldsmith \*\*\*

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Please call the Volunteer Office  
at (914) 366-3170.

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SLEEPY HOLLOW, NY 10591

### *Pam's Corner*

*By Pam Cardozo*

The summer time is always very busy for us in the Volunteer Office. This year we had approximately 60 high school and college students rotating through various departments in the hospital, i.e. Transport, the Information Desk, Library Service, Pre-Natal Clinic, Hospitality and at the Cherry Door in Tarrytown. They all did a wonderful job and without them we couldn't have managed, since most of our senior volunteers are off during July and August. Many of the students will continue to volunteer during the school year, working in our Transport Service, at the Information Desk and at the Cherry Door at the weekends. We consider ourselves very lucky to have such dedicated, reliable students supporting us – kudos to all!

Just prior to the departure of our senior volunteers for a well-deserved summer off, we held our annual supper on July 10, at The James House Mansion. About 100 volunteers attended and a wonderful evening was had by all. This was our way of thanking everyone for all the hard work and dedication they demonstrated during the year.

These senior volunteers are now beginning to return after their summer respite. We say a very big WELCOME BACK to you all and thank you for continuing to volunteer here at Phelps – year after year, for some of you! We thank you all, most sincerely.

We always need volunteers, so if you will introduce a friend or neighbor to us, that would be wonderful!

### *Is your life in order?*

*By Jim Reidy*

“It’ll never happen to me.” “I have plenty of time.” Have you said these words, or thought them when thinking about your future? Do you have a Health Care Proxy (HCP)? Is your will up to date? We have, as a society, become complacent that we will live to a ripe old age and have all the time in the world to arrange for the end of our lives, to determine how our estates will be managed and to decide (if you even consider it) WHO will make health care decisions for you when you cannot.

New York State has very specific requirements regarding the health care you receive when you cannot speak for yourself. While you are healthy is the time to decide who will be your spokesperson when you are lying in a hospital bed, unable to speak for yourself. A “Health Care Proxy” is the person YOU decide to make those decisions on your behalf. You can download a HCP form at <http://www.health.state.ny.us/forms/doh-1430.pdf> or have one mailed to you by calling 1-866-NYINSHELP (1-866-694-6743). If you cannot download it, or would like it faxed to you, write to me at [newjwr@optonline.net](mailto:newjwr@optonline.net) and I will send you a copy by fax.

Assign your Health Care Proxy now and talk to your attorney about your estate, before you can't.

**It's never too early. Do it now!**