

PHELPS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

News and Notes

Jan-Feb 2009

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

EDITED by JIM REIDY



New Year's Message from the President of Phelps Memorial Hospital

As 2008, an extraordinary year, comes to a close I want to thank our Auxilians and Volunteers for your outstanding efforts to benefit our patients. Our Volunteers add such an important dimension to patient care - comfort and personal services that would not be possible without you. You help to make Phelps the best hospital - one of which we are truly proud.

The Auxiliary's continuing fundraising success and support permitted us to complete the Capital Campaign at an unprecedented level. And, the new Emergency Department proudly displays a large sign which visibly credits the Auxiliary for naming the Family Waiting Area. Think of how many additional patients and families will benefit from your support in this marvelous new facility.

It is with great respect that I offer my sincere thanks and appreciation to all of you for your tremendous efforts over the past year. We know that we can continue to depend on you in the future. Happy New Year to all!

Keith F. Safian, FACHE
President and CEO

A Little Local History

By Dennis Corcoran

This year, 2009, will witness a three-part celebration that will officially be known as New York's Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Celebration. This year-long celebration will be the 400th anniversary of both the discovery of the Hudson River and Lake Champlain and the 200th anniversary of the invention of the steamship by Robert Fulton and his maiden voyage up the Hudson River.

Henry Hudson was an experienced English explorer who had failed in two attempts to find a Northwest Passage through our continent of North America that would take him to the riches of China. Unfortunately for him, he would never

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Bonnie D'Emidio Retires

By Jim Goldsmith



We have known for a long time that this day was coming, but somehow most of us refused to believe it. Bonnie retire? No, it must be a mistake. She'll change her mind. You watch - come January 2009 she will still be here. After all, what will Phelps do without her?

Well, January is here and, yes, Bonnie has retired after twenty-eight years at Phelps - nineteen of them as Executive Secretary to Mr. Safian, the current President and CEO of Phelps.

Bonnie is a rarity. Born at the Ossining Hospital, she has never lived anywhere else her entire life except Ossining. She graduated from Ossining High School, and went right to work for William J. Yates with no time off to enjoy her graduation. Mr. Yates was then in real estate and insurance. Bonnie served as secretary to Mr. Yates, the CEO and his son.

Bonnie was able to accomplish this because at that time, high schools taught Home Economics, which stressed typing, shorthand dictation, business law, and a host of other courses that are not taught today.

Bonnie, who has a younger brother, has been married to her husband, John, for the past thirty-five years. They have two children, Charlene and John III, and four grandchildren (and yes, one of them is John IV).

Bonnie has been a member of the Auxiliary for many years. She has always been a buyer at our bake sales (who can blame her with all those great baked products tempting her) and other fund-raising functions and has always been a loyal supporter of our organization.

When asked about her plans for the future, Bonnie said she would relax for a while then look for a part-time job until John retires (he currently works at Robison as he has for the past twenty years). After that, they hope to travel to Italy.

Alice Layne (formerly of Denison Capital) has been hired to take Bonnie's position at the hospital and the Auxiliary would like to take this time to welcome her.

"ITCHY FOOT" STRIKES AGAIN!

Contributed by Lynne Hansen

Riding lurching elephants, gliding on bamboo rafts, kneeling in golden Buddhist pagodas, setting adrift banana-leaf floats carrying candles, flowers and incense under a November full moon, and meeting smiling children - all this was part of a study tour to Thailand for Lynne Hansen (that inveterate traveler) and twenty other sponsors of the Christian Children's Fund. We were treated royally, staying in 5-star hotels, eating in exotic restaurants (the food was HOT!), and visiting royal palaces and temples.

The real purpose of the trip was to visit a Christian Children's Fund project - one of twelve such in northern Thailand, serving 1872 families of the poor hill tribes, including seven children who are sponsored by members of our tour group. After a three-hour bone-rattling van ride, we found a humble set of buildings - the "Mae Kapu" project - and were welcomed by the children (87 CCF-sponsored, out of a total of 174, from kindergarten to 9th grade) - and their teachers. We were shown their classrooms - the "3Rs", computers (when they had electricity!), crafts such as basket-weaving - and their survival endeavors - water storage, gardening, and growing catfish in channels around their buildings. They entertained us with songs and dances - and everyone had ice cream cones!



Christian Children's Fund, started in 1938 by missionaries in China, is a highly respected member of the ChildFund Alliance. It touches the lives of 15.2 million children and family members in 31 countries (including the U.S.A.), protecting children through early childhood development, education, health, nutrition, and micro-enterprise development. Sponsors contribute monthly to an assigned child (my two kids are in Guatemala: I met them two years ago). YOU can "adopt" a sponsored child, or simply contribute to a great cause. For more information, speak to me (Lynne Hansen, 741-6788).

A Little Local History

(Continued from page 1)

find it, because there wasn't any. His third attempt was in 1609 when he sailed for the Dutch. Just like Columbus, he would be disappointed in trying to find a shortcut to the riches of the East, but would discover the river that was ultimately named after him. I was regularly reminded of this discovery for 30 years as a teacher in the Hendrick (Dutch for Henry) Hudson School District. A couple of months before in 1609, Samuel de Champlain had discovered the beautiful lake that bears his name and separates New York State from Vermont. Although Fulton's discovery happened 200 years later, it is being included because it also celebrates the Hudson River.

Three of the many activities that will take place during the year include a "River Day" focusing on boats, ships and the river, a conference at Marist College dealing with the history of the river and a special visit from the Royal Dutch Family.

A grand opening will take place on the first Dutch settlement, Governor's Island, where visitors will have access to an entire perimeter promenade around the island. Another opening will transform the old Poughkeepsie Railroad Bridge into a 1.25 mile walkway across the Hudson, making it the longest walkway bridge in the world.

Finally, did you know that no one knows what Henry Hudson looked like because, whatever picture you see of him, it's an artist rendition? You can find more information at this website: <http://www.exploreny400.com>.

Note: The last issue of News and Notes stated that the James House was used by the Continuing Day Treatment Center and also the Phelps Development Offices were located there. These statements were in error. Our apologies.



Happy New Year to All my Fellow Auxilians

By Rose Marie Parisi

As 2008 becomes a memory and makes way for 2009, we think about all the things we should have done last year and resolve to make changes in the new year. Some will propose to take on a healthier lifestyle, others will take steps to improve their relationships with family, friends and co-workers.

As the Auxiliary to Phelps Memorial Hospital, it is our commitment to help the Hospital improve their facilities, their services and their relationship with the community. Over the last few years it has become increasingly difficult to attract donors, people willing or able to lend a hand or to offer the funds required to allow the Auxiliary to help the Hospital in the way it used to. The economy has hurt everyone. There is less expendable income available, less personal time available, and what there is will be offered in smaller quantities than ever before. We will feel the pinch and need your support more than ever.

We currently have about 400 members. A very small percentage of those members actually participate in the various fund-raising activities. With more help from the membership, we could realistically increase our income and subsequently improve the amount donated to the Hospital for much-needed equipment and services.

Your time or donations are welcome. Please feel free to contact me through the Auxiliary office at 366-3170 to discuss how you can help.

GIFT SHOP LOBBY SALES

Schedule courtesy of Iris Hill

January

Fri 01/09 Applause Fashions
 Thurs 01/22 Save on Socks
 Wed 01/28 Tupperware

February

Thurs 02/05 Unique Concepts in Jewelry
 Fri 02/06 Angielyn's Scrubs
 Mon 02/09 Silver Dreams Jewelry
 Fri 02/13 Classy Karat Jewelry
 Wed 02/18 Full of Sheets
 Thurs 02/19 Melvia Sportswear
 Fri 02/27 A Creative Touch

Welcome to our newest volunteers!!

Courtesy of Pat Makai

Sally Antunovich Silver Spoons
 Joan Boyle Info Desk
 Vince Cafarchio Transport
 Ching-Hua Chen-Ritzo Silver Spoons
 Rose DeGasperis Activities Rep
 Linda Diaz Transport
 Dan Fleck Physical Therapy
 Pat Horner Information Desk
 Leo Perera Pastoral Care
 Irwin Savad Cherry Door

Welcome to our Newest Auxilians

Submitted by Nancy Eichorn

Sara Boyce, Vincent Cafarchio, Deborah Filete
 Peter Forstenzer, Jonathan Kroll, Irwin Savad

Upcoming Auxiliary Board Meetings

Jan 21st and Feb 18th at 9:00AM in the Board Room.



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 914-366-3170.

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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.

Auxiliary Holiday Party

By Jim Goldsmith

We had a piano player, we had raffles for numerous prizes, including gifts generously donated by the Phelps gift shop. We had superb food, we had a terrific non-alcoholic punch, we had great wine. In essence, your Auxiliary had a wonderful Holiday Party at the James House Mansion.

Chef Gorden outdid himself with wonderful food and tasty desserts, and Eva Marie Dahling and her set-up crew made the James House Mansion look and feel very festive.

Once again as the Auxiliary has done for the past several years, we collected unwrapped toys for Toys For Tots, and canned food for the Salvation Army. Anne Caldara was in charge of the former, while Marguerite Klein headed up the latter.



Jim Chalmers, Jack Beck and yours truly handled the bar, where a choice of red or white wine flowed freely to all who asked and refills were the norm rather than the exception.

Keith Safian, President and CEO, Bruce Davidow, Sr. VP and COO, Kevin Byrne, VP Human Resources, and Bobbi Allar, VP Strategy and Development all attended for a while. It should be noted they did not come as guests but as paid-up members of our Auxiliary, which they have been for many, many years.

Because the Holiday party ends at about 7 PM, and it is dark by then, the Auxiliary is considering having an afternoon party next year so those Auxilians who would prefer to drive in daylight can do so. More on that in later issues.

Make it a point to join us next year. It is fun, festive, and you could even win a prize!!

NEW EMERGENCY ROOM OPENS

On Thursday, December 18, history was again made at Phelps with the official opening of the new Emergency Department. As the lights were turned on behind the new Emergency Department signs, signifying the opening, they were simultaneously turned off at the old Emergency signs.

With the vast difference in square feet, the new ER will take some getting used to, but after finally receiving approval from all the local and state agencies, it is open to receive patients and give them the usual wonderful care and attention in a state-of-the-art facility.

As noted previously, your Auxiliary was the first significant donor to the new ED, pledging \$500,000 over a five-year period and concluding its final payment this year.

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SLEEPY HOLLOW, NY 10591

Pam's Corner

By Pam Cardozo



To all our wonderful volunteers who have contributed so much to the lives of our patients and the smooth operation of our Hospital. Your work is invaluable and without you we simply couldn't do it! We wish you all a very happy and healthy new year and look forward to your continued support in 2009.

We also owe a big-thank you to the members of Congregation Sons of Israel in Briarcliff Manor who came in on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day to cover our Information Desk in the hospital's main lobby. We cannot thank them enough for their generosity which allowed our regular volunteers to take the time off and enjoy the Holiday with their families. This is an example of neighborly teamwork at its best!

Another thank-you goes to our local Garden Clubs who returned again this year to decorate the Christmas Trees around the Hospital. The trees look so beautiful and always bring such a festive spirit to the Hospital, and are very much appreciated by the patients, visitors and staff.



Again this year, the Croton Needleworkers made lovely items for our nursery and little children visiting the Emergency Department. These ladies are so talented, as is evidenced by the beautiful baby hats, sweaters and blankets they create! We were invited to tea and presented with these lovely hand-made gifts.

As you can see, we are indebted to so many people for their very generous contributions to us and the Hospital. Although we cannot thank you all, personally, we want you to know how very, very much we appreciate everything you do for us and Phelps. You've all done wonderful work and, once again, we THANK YOU!

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS LIKE YOU!

Are you ready to make a New Year's resolution to give something back to your community? Do you have a few hours a week to spare? If so, then Phelps is the place for you! There are many opportunities and time slots available. This is also where you can make new friends and feel so rewarded for the time you give us. Please call the Volunteer Office at 914/366-3170.

