

St. Ann's Voice Newsletter

April 2017

Dear Residents and Friends,

First and foremost, I want to extend best wishes for a happy and healthy 2017! May this newsletter find you all well.

We have exciting news and upcoming events happening at Peace Care St. Ann's. I would like to highlight our annual Gala that will be held in April this year. Although in past years we have had our event in the Fall, as part of the Peace Care integration we are fortunate for the opportunity to have the Gala in the Spring. An invitation has been mailed and I look forward to seeing many of you again soon.

It has been six months since we integrated with our sister center, St. Joseph's, to form a new non-profit, Peace Care, Inc., sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace. This collaboration has given us greater opportunities to work with Peace Care St. Joseph's in providing exceptional care to our residents. I look forward to the year ahead as part of this new partnership.

I would like to share an excerpt from a family member's email expressing their thanks for the care of their loved one and the support they received from our staff. Their heartfelt sentiments are shared as our residents and their families become an extended part of the Peace Care St. Ann's family.

*"Dear Peace Care,
Please share with your staff two things for me. First, Grace passed away this evening. Second, please extend to all at St Ann's the sincere and profound thanks of me and my family for how well you cared for her there. You made difficult times easier and anxious moments more peaceful."*

Friendly Regards,
Janet Merly-Liranzo
Administrator, Peace Care St. Ann's



PEACE CARE ST. ANN'S 2016 HONOREE, MICHAEL D'AGNES (RIGHT), WITH HIS WIFE, GERI, AND CLOSE FRIENDS

Peace Care St. Ann's Annual Gala

On Friday, April 28th Peace Care St. Ann's Gala will be held at Liberty House in Jersey City. We are very excited to be holding our event at a new venue with the same stunning views of Manhattan enjoyed by our guests last year.



Employee Health Initiatives

Peace Care St. Ann's employees have regular access to classes promoting health and wellness. Most recently, Sun Tao Studios led a yoga series for all employees. Peace Care St. Ann's has a gym as well as a meditation room for quiet reflection.

Honoring Josephine

A friend and co-worker once said the most fascinating people live at St. Ann's. I work with wonderful residents, families and staff and have met many special people. I heartily agree with my friend's statement.

One of the residents I have the pleasure knowing is Josephine Alonso. Her mother always said Josephine came into the world with a "bang" because of her memorable birth: born "in a taxi cab, on a ferry boat, in the middle of the Hudson River." Josephine has newspaper articles to prove it!

When I met Josephine she said "I have had a wonderful life. If I could do it all over again, I would do it in the same way!" Josephine talks about childhood stories, vacations, but mostly about her beloved family. She speaks proudly of her mother and father who instilled in her the love of family. She shared a story of when her father had gone to work but returned a half hour later. The family wondered why he was back and he said "I forgot to kiss your mother goodbye." Josephine never forgot those special memories.

Josephine had a successful career as a Psychiatric Registered Nurse for 23 years. She has seen her family grow and achieve successes and is most proud of the moments she creates with them. Josephine inspires me to appreciate life and see it as a journey and not a destination. I am blessed and fortunate to know her.

-Sylvia Velasquez
Director of Social Services



SYLVIA VELASQUEZ AND
JOSEPHINE ALONSO

Remembering Sister Kristin Funari (1945-2016)

There are many words that could be used to describe Sr. Kristin of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace: passionate, driven, fearless, and tireless. Those descriptors however don't scratch the surface of this social justice advocate devoted to God and society's forgotten and disadvantaged, especially women and children.

Sr. Kristin's fight for justice began during the 1960s while she was completing a sociology degree from St. Peters University. During that era, many focused their efforts to protest the Vietnam War. Already conscious of the plight of the disadvantaged, Sr. Kristin's focused on St. Peters' treatment of its cafeteria workers as well as academic freedoms.

The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace welcomed Sr. Kristin in 1966. During her first years of ministry, Sr. Kristin served as a social worker. In 1974, she received a Masters in Social Work from Fordham University.

A departure from social work occurred when Sr. Kristin was given the opportunity to act as general contractor for the construction of York Street Project,

a non-profit committed to struggling women and their children. Sr. Kristin met the challenge with the same vigor she approached any new project. Donning a hard hat, everyday she oversaw the work-site, construction crews and architects. Ultimately, Sr. Kristin was appointed as the executive director of York Street.



SISTER KRISTIN FUNARI, CSJP

In her last years, Sr. Kristin's time was given to Congregation Leadership, a position she was devoted to. Speaking with another sister about the years following her leadership role, Sr. Kristin said she had so much left to do in the world. Tragically, she was unable fulfill that wish when diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer.

Even in death, Sr. Kristin's light lives within all who knew her. The legacy she leaves behind eternally burns.

A Message from the CEO of Peace Care



GEORGE POPKO, CEO

I am pleased to be part of an organization which is a cornerstone of the healthcare community that serves the greater Hudson County region. For over 100 years, Peace Care through its skilled-nursing centers, St. Ann's and St. Joseph's (formerly the Cusack Care Center), has provided high quality, faith-based compassionate short and long term care in the tradition of our sponsor, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace.

Undoubtedly you have heard out of Washington D.C. of potential changes to the national healthcare system. Many of you may wonder how these changes might impact you or your loved one. Change is inevitable, and in many ways good as medical advances have improved the longevity and quality of life. What is of concern is the disruption that comes along with change. One thing I can assure you of is that no matter what change comes out of the current healthcare debate, our steadfast commitment at Peace Care to the highest level of compassionate, mission driven care will not be compromised.

We remain dedicated to our commitment to further invest in our facilities, equipment and technology so we can be of service for many years to come. All of us at Peace Care thank you for your support. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions or if we can be of assistance. We can be reached at info@peacecarenj.org.

Sincerely,
George Popko
Chief Executive Officer, Peace Care

To receive this newsletter by email, sign-up on our Website: PeaceCareNJ.org and don't forget to follow us on Facebook.

Happy Birthday!

January

- January 1, Grace Rushalk
- January 6, Lillian Barrett & Barbara Jurcisin
- January 11, Raymond McKeon
- January 13, Olivree Wade
- January 15, Richard Manzella
- January 16, Rose Mazzeo - Happy 102nd!
- January 22, Frank Dimeglio
- January 23, Helen Donaghy
- January 24, Theresa Gretkowski
- January 25, Josephine Alonso

February

- February 12, Dorothy Kately
- February 14, Eileen Roach
- February 17, Edie Labarrie
- February 18, Frances Versacio
- February 19, Colette Flores & Catherine Spinelli
- February 25, Phillip Casella & Minnie Natovitz

March

- March 1, Margaret Tomei
- March 2, William Kirchoff
- March 3, Antoinette Tomassi
- March 10, Olga Karanko
- March 12, Margaret Janiszewski
- March 14, Diane Mainor
- March 18, Katheryn Fedors & Mary MacDonald
- March 21, Paul Svensen
- March 23, Anna Wanko
- March 28, Beverly Roman
- March 29, Robert Haggerty

April

- April 5, Eleanore Barbito
- April 10, Dolores Butler
- April 14, James Finnerty
- April 15, Elvera Sellitti
- April 17, Frank Kearney & Hattie Walker
- April 29, Loretta Crinocoli
- April 30, Edna Staehs

Goodbyes...

This January Peace Care St. Ann's said goodbye to two of our long-time employees. While it is always sad to see members of our family move on, we know Amarillis and Mike are headed onto rewarding new phases of their lives.

Amarillis Hernandez joined Peace Care St. Ann's in 2000 as a driver for the Adult Medical Day Care program. She was quickly promoted to administrative assistant of AMDC where she has been a valued employee ever since. What are Amarillis' plans for retirement? She will take some well-deserved time for herself and spend as much time as possible with her beautiful family.



**AMARILLIS WITH DAUGHTERS
AND GRANDDAUGHTERS**



**MIKE WITH HIS DAUGHTER
ANGELICA IN SCOTLAND**

Mike Mabalot worked as our Environmental Services Assistant Manager for over 13 years after serving in the US Navy for 20 years. A man with so many interests, he plans to do little resting in retirement. Mike is a lifetime learner, enjoying the study of various disciplines (currently quantum physics!), and a lover of travel. His first trips in retirement are Machu Picchu, Peru, and Scotland to visit his daughter, Angelica.