F-A-C-T-S

STJOHN Providence



Ascension

WINTER 2018

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's so hard to believe that my first year as your President is coming to an end in a few months, and what an exciting, fun whirlwind of a year it has been. We kicked it off in June with an early Board Meeting to get all of our ducks in order so that

when we started in the fall we would be able to hit the ground running!

In September we co-sponsored the Run for the Fun of it, named "Run For a Reason" with The Guild, and the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club. It is always a great event for family and friends which includes a 5K Walk and a 1 Mile Fun Walk traveling along Lakeshore Dr. from the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club to Woodland Shore Drive and finishing back at the Yacht Club. Many thanks to Fontbonne Board Member Jocelyn Dombrowski heading this up for us again this year.

Our second Board Meeting was a brunch and tour held at one of St. John Hospital and Medical Center owned family homes on Raymond Street. As you all probably all know proceeds from the White Christmas Ball in December have gone to support these houses that are used for families of patients on extended stay in the hospital.

"Couture for the Cure", our annual fashion show was an amazing success again this year. Co-Chaired by Amy Danna, Tammy Haney and Alysia Laethem, the event was held at Andiamo Restaurant in Warren. Guests were treated to a delicious dinner followed by the fashion show that was emceed by Cheryl Lindsay-Hall......and featured professional models wearing fashions from Somerset Mall and Etcetera (courtesy of Fontbonne member Maureen Gleason).

"Mingle and Jingle", our annual Holiday Boutique was held at the Country Club of Detroit on November 28th along with our general meeting and an amazing luncheon. It was a wonderful way to get into the holiday spirit and take care of some shopping at the same time. Members from the Grosse Pointe South High School Choir entertained us with Christmas Carols which also helped the Christmas Spirit permeate the air and our spirits! Thank you to Co-Chairs Adel Dissett, Gail Howe, Kathryn Kaspzyk, and Madeleine Phillips for all their hard work in chairing this very fun event!

Currently we are celebrating our 70th year of service to St. John Hospital and Medical Center. We commemorated the event on December 4th in the chapel in St. John Hospital with a blessing of the hands for volunteers....followed by a reception with a buffet of heavy hor d'oeuves and cocktails....many thanks to Co-Chairs Jean L. Azar, Sharon Burke and Camille DeMario for putting together a lovely evening for all who attended.

2017 ended with the White Christmas Ball, chaired by Jennie Silva. It was a HUGE success. Held at the beautiful Detroit Athletic Club, the ball was perfect in every way. Almost 400 guests dined on Surf and Turf, danced to the music of Your Generation....and of course we finished the evening with coney dogs and hummers.

We are currently working quickly on our agenda for 2018 and have lots of fun events planned again this year. We have Regan Wright to assist us, as she became the Fontbonne Auxiliary's Special Events Coordinator in March, 2017. We were devastated when Raegan Movinski, who was our amazing friend and coordinator left Fontbonne after 12 years. Regan Wright came on board and quickly learned the ropes. Her knowledge and organizational skills are truly unsurpassed. She tends to every detail from sending out a weekly report to Vice-President Phyllis DeMars and me, and she also is taking charge of every event to ensure they all run smoothly. I want to also thank the amazing Pauline Hemmingsen who works tirelessly alongside Regan as our Auxiliary Assistant . Pauline has been with Fontbonne for many years and has been a great help to Regan when it comes her knowledge of past events and the inner workings of our auxiliary that we are here as members to support the Fontbonne and St. John Hospital. That means that we all need to get involved and help out wrapping the gifts for the WCB or making some phone calls on Fontbonne's behalf or help with membership at our general membership meetings.

Finally I want to thank you for the opportunity to represent the Fontbonne Auxiliary as your President. 2017 was an amazing year, and I am looking forward to 2018 with great anticipation. Let's have some fun and get stuff done!!....

Warm Regards,

Pamela Meyer



Our Fontbonne Auxiliary under the chairmanship of Jennie Silva selected the Patient Family Housing Program to be the recipient of our 64th White Christmas Ball proceeds, specifically for making one of these homes handicapped accessible. St. John Hospital has purchased seven homes on Raymond Street behind the hospital. These homes are used for patients' families when their loved ones are recovering from surgery where the medical situations require extended hospitalization.

The September 2017 Fontbonne board meeting was held in one of the houses, and our members could observe and appreciate how fully furnished, beautifully landscaped and immaculately maintained the houses are. The board members were served a delicious brunch prepared by the hospital's catering, and the meeting and brunch were held on a very lovely deck surrounded with well maintained landscaping. The board experienced the feeling of comfortable living that will be experienced by St. John 's patients and their families in the Patient Family Housing Program.

The brilliant and amazing surgical talents of Dr. Richard Berri, Chief of Surgical Oncology and Peritoneal Malignancies, Dr. Holly Gilmer, adult and pediatric Neurologist and Dr. Darla Granger, Surgical Director of St. John Transplant Specialty Center have all attracted patients who live outside the Metropolitan Detroit area and out-of-state and even as far away as Quatar. The outstanding skill of of these three honorary chairs attracting so many patients shows the need for this housing program.

Many of these patients and their families find it difficult to make travel plans and accommodations for themselves when

they are at the same time dealing with serious medical issues. Thus the need for a housing program that enables patients' families to have a healing environment in a fully-furnished home has been realized. St. John Hospital filled that need with this well-received and fully utilized housing program.

The heart and soul of this program is Lisa Caradonna who has provided the skill and dedication necessary to make this project successful. Dr. Berri's team implemented the program and manned the house several years ago, and subsequently Lisa was enlisted to oversee the clean-up, renovation and furnishing of four homes. The program expanded to seven homes in two years because the need was so great for families who traveled a significant distance for surgery and treatment. Lisa makes sure the families have the comfort and needed respite during this stressful time.

Lisa has successfully involved the surrounding community in the project. Grosse Pointe South High School's National Honor Society and band assist with the shopping for the house, cleaning and yard maintenance and at the same time earning service hours. Lisa herself is so committed to the project that she bonds with the families throughout their stay. She has even brought her dogs so children who miss their pets will be able to play with them, and she has been known to walk with patient's families. She is very appreciated for her unending and fulltime accommodating of the family's needs and schedules. So much of the success of the program is because of Lisa's diligence and dedication. The patients, families of the patients and St. John Hospital and Medical Center are all benefitting from this wonderful Patient Family Housing Program.



Our annual festive holiday boutique and luncheon was held at the Country Club of Detroit on Tuesday, November 28. The talented chairs planning this delightful afternoon were Adel Dissett, Gail Howe, Kathryn Kaspzyk and Madeleine Phillips. They provided the Christmas atmosphere for all to enjoy including the colorful holiday-themed centerpieces.

Extensive shopping was available for Fontbonne members and their guests to "Mingle and Jingle". The vendors displayed their gifts in the Great Hall and the French Room of the country club, and they included gifts for women, men, children, edibles and interior design. Le Fontbonne Gift Shoppe also displayed many items for purchasing along with the 20 other vendors. There were many exquisite gifts on display.

Spiritual Director Betty Granger CSJ gave an inspirational invocation prior to the delicious lunch with the famous Country Club of Detroit's Cobb Salad being served with assorted rolls and their famed Sticky Buns and a delicious dessert of handmade and festive Christmas cookies.

President Pam Meyer conducted a brief business meeting, and she told of the excitement building with the 64th Annual White Christmas Ball entitled "Bring Joy to the World" to be held Friday, December 8 at the beautiful Detroit Athletic Club. Then members from the renowned Grosse Pointe South Choir provided some delightful Christmas carols to inspire all who attended. This concluded a most memorable afternoon made possible by our holiday boutique and meeting chairs who planned this special day for our Fontbonne Auxiliary.

Changing of the Guard for Fontbonne in May 2017



A fond farewell was given to President Debbie Condino as Pam Meyer was welcomed as Fontbonne's President for the years May 2017 - May 2019. At this annual meeting Debbie gave St. John Hospital and Medical Center President Bob Hoban a check for \$168,705.71 of which \$165,413,63 went to the hospital's Birthing Center. Bingo and the Lenten Day of Renewal combined gave \$3,525.06 to the Nursing Scholarship Endowment Fund. Spiritual Director Betty Granger CSJ was given a check for \$10,000 for the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph. In the two years of Debbie's presidency \$402,048 was the total raised through the Fontbonne's fundraising.

Debbie was an executive assistant to the hospital administration and then became regional vice president of Clinical and Support Services. Debbie was an employee of St. John Hospital for 32 years. She also has served on the board of The Guild as well as on the board of the Fontbonne.

President Pam Meyer lived in Kalamazoo for 25 years before moving to Grosse Pointe to be closer to family. Pam had a long career in advertising, mostly broadcast as well as selling real estate in Michigan. Pam has been involved in many volunteer organizations including serving as president of Grosse Pointe Friends and Neighbors. She was also the White Christmas Ball Chairman in 2015 with her Ball theme of "Heaven and Nature Sing".

She brings a wealth of knowledge to her position of leadership as president of the Fontbonne Auxiliary. We are looking forward to her leading us for the next two years.

We also at this May 2017 annual meeting honored Wendy Bellard, Liz Bsharah, Gloria Clark and Julie Gheen as they retired from the Fontbonne board.

Fonthonne Observes the Lenten Season

Our Fontbonne Auxiliary is offering a Lenten Day of Renewal for the 28th year on Thursday, March 8 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. It is being held at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, and the Reverend Sarah Godbehere, Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries is leading us for this very special day. Sarah is passionate about preaching, worship, teaching and sharing the love of God through word, art and action. Her presentation last year was so enjoyed and appreciated that many who attended asked for Sarah to come again, and we are all grateful that she agreed.

We will meet and share friendship in the Sanctuary, and a Day of Renewal workshop will follow. We will explore Lectio Divina, a prayerful way of reading the Bible while listening to God's voice speaking to us through the scripture. Sarah has chosen a parable for us to share reflections and ask questions while trying this ancient prayer practice together.

Day of Renewal Chairs Peggy Davis, Liz Mitchell, Patty Stumb and Linda Trevillian have planned a beautiful menu of delicious sweet rolls, assorted breads and cupcakes with coffee and tea, spring flowers and teapots lavishly displayed in the second floor lounge for our enjoyment following the workshop. The morning will end at noon following a brief worship service back in the Sanctuary.

There is no charge for this Lenten Day morning, but donations will be welcome to benefit the Nursing Scholarship Endowment. St. John Hospital and Medical Center nurses are being invited to attend as are Grosse Pointe Memorial Church members.

SAVE the DATE!



Thursday, April 26, 2018

BINGO

6:30pm @ Assumption Cultural Center

WARM WELCOME TO DEBBIE CONDINO

Past President Amy Danna planned a beautiful afternoon to welcome Debbie Condino into our special camaraderie of past presidents. The lovely Lakeshore Room at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club provided the backdrop for the sharing of the high points of each attendees' terms in office as president of our beloved Fontbonne Auxiliary.

Jean L. Azar, Sharon Burke, Debbie Condino, Amy Danna, Peggy Davis, Ardis Gardella, JoAnn Miller, Pat Ostosh, Aspa Raphtis, Lorna Zalenski and Jacquie Wetherholt, CSJ were all immensely pleased to meet once again to welcome our newest past president. We are an enthusiastic group of supporters of St. John Hospital and Medical Center who share truly meaningful friendships uniting to bring new friends into the Fontbonne and to fundraise for our very special community hospital.

A delicious salad luncheon was enjoyed by all, and our new Fontbonne Coordinator Regan Wright took a photo of those who were in attendance as seen in the attached photo.



In the Fontbonne's 70th Anniversary Memory Book, one of the favorite highlights mentioned repeatedly by members was the fabulous Fontbonne fashion shows throughout the history of our auxiliary. Two years ago, our president, Debbie Condino, shared her vision and commitment to returning to the fashion show idea. Thus "Couture and Cosmos at the Cadillac" was born and was a huge success with our members and a complete sell out. This year a change of venue to the Andiamo Banquet Center in Warren and time from an afternoon to an evening event proved to be the key to making "Couture for a Cure" a tremendous success and making it possible for us to raise 20 K that evening for our Liggett Breast Center. 1 in 8 women will develop breast cancer some time in their lives!

Cheryl Lindsay-Hall returned for a second year to entertain us with her witty fashion sense and colorful commentary. The fun and trendy fashion show featured area professional models and fashions from the Somerset Collection. The entertaining evening included a popular "signature drink" served in tall wine glasses creatively and lovingly painted by the students from

the Grosse Pointe South Art Department. Three designs were available for purchase and were "sold out" before the evening ended. Fabulous prizes along with a delicious dinner capped off with a decadent pink cupcake from the Pink Elephant made the event extra fun.

A big thank you to our terrific trio, Amy Danna, Tammy Haney and Alysia Laethem for an evening of fashion, friendship and fund-raising!





The Fontbonne Auxiliary presents

70th Anniversary of our Beloved Fontbonne Auxiliary



Three very busy veteran Fontbonne members (two past presidents) Jean L. Azar, Sharon Burke and Camille DeMario, were responsible for planning an evening in tribute to our Fontbonne Auxiliary celebrating 70 years of service to, and support of, St. John Hospital and Medical Center.

Over 50 members (some since 1969, 1970, 1971 and 1972) and 10 next generation Fontbonne members gathered in our beautiful hospital chapel to take part in the blessing of the volunteers. Betty Granger CSJ, our Spiritual Director, shared some interesting and little known pieces of

history from the Auxiliary's last 70 years. Jacquie Wetherholt, CSJ delivered a beautiful rendition on the Beatitudes of Women. Jean L. Azar concluded the chapel service by singing "You'll Never Walk Alone". A reception in the Van Elslander Pavilion followed where guests enjoyed time to renew friendships and enjoy delicious hors d'oeurves.

Each guest received a lovely "Favorite Memories Book" that included over 100 special memories from our Fontbonne members.

Here are a few comments on "Fontbonne Friendships" taken from the "Favorite Memories Book:" that capture the special "friendraising" that we achieve along with our "fund-raising."

"I hope to spend my lifetime as a member of this group." (Kimberleigh Bill)

"I know that the special camaraderie and valuable friendships will continue in the years to come!" (*Peggy Davis*)

"The Fontbonne has allowed me to develop long lasting memories with other fabulous Fontbonne members. It is an organization I am proud to be a part of." (*Phyllis DeMars*)

"I have developed some wonderful friendships through the Fontbonne and I feel blessed to be a member." (*Jocelyn Dombrowski*)

"All the many wonderful friends I made over the years... an abundance of happy memories which will last a lifetime." (Mado Lie)

"Sister Verenice McQuade was such an inspiration to every member of Fontbonne – an unforgettable person so remembered with love." (Mildred Murray)



"Thank you to all the Fontbonne memories for all the beautiful blessings and memories." (Raegan Movinski)

"I was very fortunate to meet and work with so many service-minded women, many of whom have become very dear friends." (Linda Lloyd)

"It has been a pleasure to serve and work alongside this group of amazing volunteers and staff. Life-long friends are made here." (Linda Schaden)

"My memory is not a single event but rather the dedication and fidelity the women have demonstrated since the Auxiliary's founding in 1947 - to their mission of fundraising to help the hospital meet the health care needs of the community." (Betty Granger, CSJ)

The spirit of friendship is alive and well in our Fontbonne. May God Bless us all with 70 more years. "The hospital's passion for healing is our passion for helping."

calling all **Shoppers**

to Le Fontbonne Gift Shoppe

February is Heart Health Month, and Le Fontbonne Gift Shoppe is more than stocked and ready. Come in and see our latest line of chic workout clothes. They are so stylish you might just want to lounge in them. Our Heart Healthy Corner is also stocked with healthy snacks that you will find tasty as well. We cannot wait to display the lively spring clothing which is arriving now. It promises to be an exciting collection. And just in case you still need a little extra warmth for this winter, check our the jackets and capes on our "winter wall". You'll find just what you need. Remember That Fontbonne members receive a 15% discount, and all profits from sales go directly back to the hospital. Hope to see you soon.

~ Jo Ann Miller



Launching the White Christmas Ball "Bring Joy to the World"

The beautiful home of hostess Jean L. Azar was the site for the 45th White Christmas Ball Kick-Off. Fontbonne President Pam Meyer welcomed the Ball committee and introduced this year's Ball Chair Jennie Silva, Pam's beautiful and talented daughter.

Chair Jennie thanked and welcomed her committee and introduced Lisa Caradonna, senior administrative assistant to the hospital's Chief Operating Officer Brant Russell and Vice-President of Nursing Gayle Novack. Lisa explained how the proceeds from "Bring Joy to the World" are being directed to the Patient Family Housing Project. For two years Lisa's dedication to patients and their families has been the impetus to clean-up, renovate and fix up seven homes for use by families of patients having procedures for serious medical problems to be housed for extended periods of time during recuperation of their loved ones. The one home specified for White Christmas Ball proceeds is to make it handicapped accessible.

Jennie has a very special interest in the Patient Family Housing Project, because

she sees the need for housing for St. John Hospital patients and families requiring travel arrangements and accommodations for those dealing with serious medical conditions. Many patients come to St. John from outside the metropolitan Detroit area or out of state because of the hospital's reputation for outstanding surgeons. The surgical talents of adult and pediatric Neurosurgeon Dr. Holly Gilmer were those that enabled Jennie's daughter Ella to be operated on in 2013, and thus Dr. Gilmer was named an honorary co-chair for this year's White Christmas Ball.

Jennie announced the family photo section is being included again in this year's ball, and it will be a nice addition to the program book. She also gave the committee the date for the photo shoot to be taken with our very popular photographer Karl Ford on Tuesday, June 12 at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club.

Jean L. Azar provided a gourmet lunch for the "Bring Joy to the World" White Christmas Ball committee. Jean closed the meeting with a prayer. ■



Royal English Tea Room Luncheon

The Royal English Tea Room, tucked into a small out of the way Harper Wood's neighborhood, was the venue for our Thursday, September 19th outing. In the tradition of the Grand and Elegant Court of Imperial Russia, a 7 course Russian Tea Luncheon was served. It featured an exotic selection of luncheon foods, homemade soups and finger sandwiches, a variety of decadent desserts as well as a selection of tea varieties from around the world. In this unique and cozy setting, each new tea was served to each guest in a colorful and authentic imported ceramic tea pot.

Fontbonne President Pam Meyer held a short business meeting, and she shared the fun events coming up. Next was the 5K "Run For a Reason" that was held on Sunday, September 24 followed by the fashion show, "Couture for a Cure" at Andiamo's in Warren on Thursday, October 25. Pam told how the excitement is building for holiday meeting, "Mingle and Jingle" to launch the Christmas season with a holiday boutique and festive luncheon on Tuesday, November 27 at the Country Club of Detroit.

Fontbonne members were welcome to walk the grounds and enjoy the beautiful gardens and St. Sabbas Monastery. However, a gentle and friendly reminder was issued regarding certain standards of dress that must be observed. "No short skirts or tank tops are allowed." Regan Wright, our Fontbonne coordinator, and yours truly, discovered this warning too late and were issued our very own maxi-skirts while on the grounds! We both accepted our humble pie with grace

and humor. The sold out luncheon, grounds and Russian customs were enjoyed by all members and their guests.



Oyful WHITE CHRISTMAS BALL 2017 "Bring Joy to the World"

On Friday, December 8th, The Fontbonne Auxiliary hosted the 64th Annual White Christmas Ball at the beautiful Detroit Athletic Club. The theme for this year's event was "Bring Joy to the World" and it certainly brought joy to all of the guests. With over 350 people in attendance, it was a SOLD OUT event! The ball was chaired by Jennie Silva, who did a magnificent job putting together every detail to make the event a success.

The DAC served a delicious meal of tenderloin and salmon and ended the night with hummers and coney island hotdogs -White Christmas Ball traditions!. One of the highlights of the evening was the fabulous entertainment provided by "Your Generation", an 8-piece band that played a broad range of music that kept the dance floor full all night long. Every guest left with a beautiful custom crystal globe that was generously donated by edmund T. Ahee Jewelers.

Our honorary chairs were Dr. Richard Berri, Dr. Darla Granger and Dr. Holly Gilmer. These amazing physicians are so sought after for their surgical expertise that patients have traveled from the across the country (and in one case from as far as Qatar!) for their treatment. These long distance patients can take advantage of the fabulous Patient Guest Housing Program at St. John, to which the proceeds of this ball have been directed. You can read more about these brilliant physicians and this wonderful program in the Patient Guest Housing article in this issue of Fontbonne Facts. The evening was a great success and we raised over \$71,000 for Patient Guest Housing!











The 4th annual Run for a Reason took place on September 24th, 2017. This is an event that represents the combined efforts of the Fontbonne Auxiliary, St. John Guild and the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, and it has grown in popularity and productivity each year since its inception. This year 267 runners and walkers enjoyed a sunny and beautiful day for the race, which kicked off at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, led participants down Lakeshore drive and back. At the club, spectators and participants enjoyed music from DJ William Kalmar, performances by Baffling Bill the Magician, and the super popular Wally's Frozen Custard Fire Truck – all of which were sponsored by the Fontbonne Auxiliary.

Participants received T shirts and dog tags that were paid for by wonderful grass roots fundraising efforts: Penny jars were set up at various local establishments including the LeFontbonne Gift Shop, St. John Guild Coffee Shop, Connor Park Florist, and Ashby's Ice Cream. National Coney Island also designated 3 different fundraising nights, during which a percentage of all sales was generously donated to this event.

Huge thanks to Jocelyn Dombrowski who led the committee for this event and helped it to raise almost \$7,000 this year - the most money this event has generated to date!

2018 Fontbonne Upcoming Events

Thursday, March 8

28th Annual Lenten Day of Renewal

9am @ the Grosse Pointe Memorial Church

Thursday, April 26 **Bingo**6:30pm @ Assumption Cultural Center

Thursday, September 26
Fashion Show
5pm @ Andiamo Banquet Center

Thursday, November 8

Holiday Mingle & Jingle Shopping Spree
TBD @ Country Club of Detroit

Friday, November 30
65th White Christmas Ball

6pm @ Detroit Athletic Club

www.stjohnfontbonne.org

REMINDER: Reservations for Fontbonne events will only be honored if they are prepaid by credit card, check or cash. Thank You!

Editors: Peggy Davis, Tricia Schaden & Patty Stumb
Any suggestions for articles that may be appropriate for publication in
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