

Fontbonne

F·A·C·T·S



**Ascension
St. John Hospital**

SPRING 2020

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President Elect

Gail Howe
Vice President

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Recording Secretary

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Mary Ellen Dakmak

Camille DeMario

Phyllis DeMars

Adel Dissett

Jocelyn Dombrowski

Cristina Garberding

Phyllis Howard

Bonnie Jobe

Pam Kocsis

Mado Lie

Pamela Meyer**

Elizabeth Mitchell

Suchi Rama

Linda Schaden

Tricia Schaden



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fontbonne Family,

This has surely been a whirlwind year for Fontbonne and I have been honored to be part of it as your President, once again.

For those of you who aren't aware, I served as President of the Fontbonne from 2001-2003 and thoroughly enjoyed my time at the helm of such a caring and hardworking organization. Fontbonne is alive and well and so much has happened in the last year.

In April we moved our offices to a new location within the hospital to the offices of the Administration. A huge thank you to Bob Hoban for making the move possible and for always supporting the Fontbonne. To jump slightly ahead, in June we welcomed a new Fontbonne/Guild Coordinator, Kathleen McDonald. Kathy has a bright smile and has cheerfully embraced the huge scope of coordinating both fundraising groups at the hospital.

In May, Pam Meyer, led her farewell General Membership Meeting by presenting several of our Ascension St. John Nursing Associates with scholarships and presenting the hospital with our annual donation. Our annual donation was also given to the Sisters. Our new Board for 2019-2021 was also welcomed and sworn in for their term. A wonderful luncheon was enjoyed by all at Lochmoor Club, chaired by Phyllis DeMars and myself.

In June, the Past Presidents welcomed Pam Meyer to join the camaraderie that all Past Presidents enjoy. Past President Debbie Condino planned a beautiful afternoon luncheon for us all at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club. Thank you, Debbie and Welcome Pam.

September brought our Fall Fling Kickoff Luncheon and Photo Shoot for the White Christmas Ball. Our morning included gathering at the hospital for photos with the staff and then a wonderful luncheon in the new Market. A special thank you to Pat Cosgrove,

Marie DeLuca and Adel Dissett who had The Market decked out in fall colors and planned a delicious luncheon for the committee. Also, in September we held our Board and General Membership meeting at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club. Phyllis Howard and Pat Connelly planned a wonderfully educational meeting for us which included speakers Lacey LeFere and Mary Natschke, nurses promoting the Holistic Nursing Care at Ascension St. John. Hand massages were done by Dawn Naidow.

Mingle Jingle – our December General Membership meeting – chaired by Camille DeMario and Pam Meyer, was held at Lochmoor Club. The club was decked out for the holidays, our LeFontbonne Gift Shoppe provided lots of items for Christmas shopping and the 5th graders from Grosse Pointe Academy entertained us with Christmas carols. It was a wonderful way to kick off the holiday season with merriment and friends. Thank you, Camille and Pam.

Right on the heels of the Mingle Jingle, we had our White Christmas Ball. Oh, what a wonderful evening it was. Chaired by Madeleine Phillips it truly was an evening to "Rejoice and Be Glad". This year, the ball was held at the Dearborn Inn and supported the naming of the new Pediatric Reception Desk in the New Pediatric Emergency Room currently under construction. Honorary Chairs included Dr. Thirumoorthi, Dr. Robert Sills, and Dr. Melinda Karem – all strong supporters of the hospital. The evening was a huge success raising over \$116,000.00. Madeleine's eye for beauty and talent for bringing everything together for the evening shone brightly and I thank you, Madeleine, from the bottom of my heart.

Also during this very productive year, and with the steadfast help of Camille Cracchiolo and Linda Schaden, we were able to pull together our Membership Directory and have mailed it to all of our members along with renewal notices for dues. If you haven't sent

in your Annual dues please do so and if you would like to encourage a friend to join that would be wonderful. The more, the merrier.

April was supposed to bring our spring Fashion Show, "Fashion for Freedom", chaired by Camille Cracchiolo for all to enjoy. Gayle Novack, Chief Nursing Officer at Ascension St. John was to be our Honorary Chair and funds from the event were committed to the DeMars Family Endowment Fund Against Human Trafficking. This Endowment supports the education, training and awareness programs for the staff at the hospital. Unfortunately the Coronavirus has derailed our plans but not our commitment. We have cancelled the actual Fashion Show but will fulfill our commitment to fund the Endowment in the fight against human trafficking. If you would like to join us in this fight, please consider making a donation. More information can be found in the article "Fashion for Freedom" or by calling the Fontbonne office. Thank you Gayle for being our Honorary Chair. Thank you, Camille, for your continued energy and drive in helping to make this a non-event event and raise funds for the Endowment.

Moving forward we are working on our agenda for 2020 beginning with our May General Membership meeting which will be at Lochmoor Club on May 15th. Gail Howe will be chairing this luncheon and invites will be out soon. Hope to see you there.

Finally, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to represent the Fontbonne Auxiliary as your President. As it did during my previous term as President, this wonderful organization continues to bring new friends into my life and each new friend is cherished. I will continue to work hard for you, the Fontbonne membership, and for Ascension St. John Hospital and all of the wonderful things we can do to make it a destination for everyone's medical care. Please join me in this endeavor and keep Fontbonne in your prayers for continued success.

Warmly,

Lorna Zalenski

Lorna Zalenski,
Fontbonne President

Welcome Kathleen McDonald Fontbonne/Guild Coordinator

In June 2019 we welcomed Kathy McDonald as the new Administrative Events Coordinator to the Fontbonne Auxiliary and GUILD. Having spent 11 years as the Leasing Events Coordinator at Taubman, Kathy brings to us a rich history of successfully creating elaborate corporate conventions in New York, Las Vegas and Orlando.

Kathy is a recent transplant to Grosse Pointe Woods and never thought she would leave her home in Farmington Hills. After the death of her husband she decided to change everything. Her large condo was replaced with a smaller home in the Woods. She now enjoys walking everywhere, gardening and spending time with her son John and grandson Lucas. Kathy also enjoys the company of her 13 year old Beagle Terrier Mix rescue dog, Mickey.

Although her background is not in the fundraising arena, Kathy has blended her skills while learning a multitude of new ones and has done so with her smile and cheerfulness. Her smile brightens the office and it can be heard in her voice as she assists all of our members. We welcome Kathy with open arms!! ■



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

It was a cold damp November morning when several Fontbonne members assembled to come up with a new slate of board members for the next

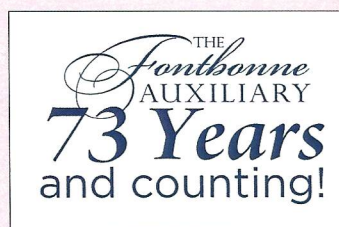
two years. It was a time when our Fontbonne's future was unsure and unresolved. A huge heartfelt thank you to: Mary Ellen Dakmak, Camille DeMario,

Phyllis DeMars, Pam Meyer, Mado Lie and Lorna Zalenski. This group came together with one goal in mind. Under our watch, the Fontbonne Auxiliary would not dissolve.

We welcomed back former Board members along with 4 new, (all-seasoned and all past presidents) Jean Azar, Sharon Burke. Patty Stumb and Lorna Zalenski.

They bring enthusiasm, innovation, good will and thoughtful commitment to our new Board. Our new Board is charged with the duty to continue

our passion for helping our hospital's passion for healing. ■



WARM WELCOME TO PAM MEYER

Past President Debbie Condino planned a beautiful afternoon luncheon to welcome Pamela Meyer 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.

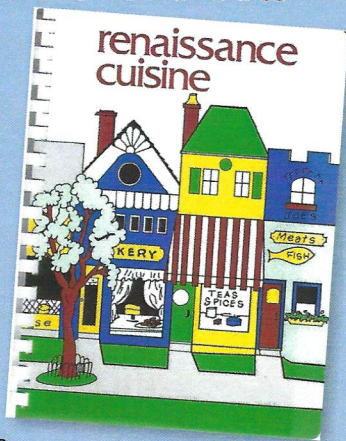
Jean L. Azar, Sharon Burke, Debbie Condino, Ardis Gardella, Linda Lloyd, Pat Ostosh, Aspa Raphtis, Patty Stumb, Jacquie Wetherholt, CSJ, and Lorna Zalenski were all immensely pleased to meet once again to welcome our newest past president, Pam Meyer. A delicious luncheon was provided and all of the past presidents enjoyed a day of friendship and reminiscence. ■



FONTBONNE COOKBOOKS

(A FAVORITE RECIPE)

Fontbonne cookbooks, "renaissance cuisine", are again available in the Fontbonne Office. They are \$5.00, filled with amazing recipes and make wonderful gifts. Below is a SPRING SALAD that sounds delicious. If you would like to purchase a cookbook, please contact Kathy in the office at 313-343-3675 or email her at Kathleen.mcDonald1@ascension.org for more information.



SPRING SALAD

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 pkg lemon jello | ¼ cup chopped onion (sweet) |
| 1 cup boiling water | ¼ cup grated carrots (optional) |
| 1 cup chopped celery | 1 cup mayonnaise |
| ¼ cup chopped cucumber | 1 cup cottage cheese, small curd |

When jello starts to set, beat with fork until foamy. Add mayonnaise and beat again. Add cottage cheese and mix well. Add remaining ingredients. Stir together and chill. Use 8-inch square cake pan. Serves 12-16.

- Submitted by Sister Pat Brown, SSJ.

WHITE CHRISTMAS BALL FALL-FLING KICKOFF LUNCHEON AND PHOTO SHOOT

Our quintessential energizer bunny and Ball Chair, Madeleine Phillips, decided to mix it up a little this year and celebrate our annual Ball Kick-off and Photo Shoot on the same day and at the hospital. She chose a unique theme of "Rejoice and Be Glad" and carried it out exquisitely. On September 4th photos of the Fontbonne members and pediatric and labor and delivery personnel were taken at various pediatric and women's health care areas of the hospital. First in line to be photographed were our new Fontbonne President Lorna Zalenski and Ball Chair Madeleine Phillips. Modeling the latest in hard hats, the ladies posed in front of the new Pediatric Emergency Department (which will be separate from the Adult Emergency Center) with some very handsome construction workers.

Other Fontbonne members were photographed in several pediatric units and even included our hospital service dogs Hope and Paxton: in the Emergency Department, the Pediatric Unit, the Cracchiolo Birthing Center and in the beautiful hospital Arboretum. The hospital and staff were most "hospitable" to our members and all enjoyed feeling the healing pulse of our hospital. We welcomed our new photographer, Jason Loudermilk, who worked closely with our Photo Shoot Committee, Camille DeMario, Kim Plesco, Pam Meyer and Patty Stumb, to make Madeleine's dream of a photo shoot at our hospital come true.

After a busy morning of "smiling until it hurt", our members gathered in the newly remodeled dining room called The Market. Our Kick-off Luncheon Committee - Pat Cosgrove, Marie DeLuca and Adel Dissett had Fall flinging everywhere with lovely centerpieces of roses and mums set on bright orange tablecloths accented with autumn yellow napkins.

The Fall-like menu was served by Larry Meyer and his wonderful staff who made us all feel at home while enjoying each other's company. As we ended our morning, everyone gathered in the Arboretum for a group hug and picture. We all had so much to "Rejoice and Be Glad" about. ■



66TH ANNUAL WHITE CHRISTMAS BALL

Rejoice
and be glad



Continuing to mix it up and with her calming influence and warm smile, our chair Madeleine chose the Dearborn Inn as the venue this year. The attendees in their ball gowns and black ties danced the night away to the trendy Persuasion Band. Lovely arrangements, created by John Adamo at Conner Park Florist, adorned each table covered in white linens and Christmas red napkins. A beautifully wrapped box in red velvet and holding a votive candle added to the ambiance and excitement of the evening. The ball favors were donated with love by edmund t. AHEE Jewelers. Photography was provided by Jason Loudermilk who took pictures of smiling couples that provided warm memories of a special event.

Madeleine warmly welcomed everyone to the 66th Annual White Christmas Ball. Since it was December 7th and the 75th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, the evening began with a short summary of Pearl Harbor presented by

Doug Kucyk, retired Air Force Veteran, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of "God Bless America" led by Charles A.J. Kotcher Jr., retired Marine Veteran.

A delicious gourmet dinner of salmon and filet was served only to be surpassed by the two delicious and decadent chocolate desserts. Many of the evening's guests took advantage of a special package that included an overnight stay in the newly decorated rooms at the Dearborn Inn.

Honorees for the evening included Dr. Melinda Karam, Dr. Muthayipalayam Thirumoorthi and Dr. Robert Sills, all strong supporters of Ascension St. John.

With "gladdened" hearts, we "rejoice" in the gift of Madeleine who so generously and joyfully offered her talent, time and treasure to make our 66th annual White Christmas Ball a true celebration of our extraordinary hospital and beloved Fontbonne Auxiliary. ■



UPDATE FROM PAST-PRESIDENT PEGGY DAVIS



Moving to California, the “land of milk and honey”, also known as the “Land of Promise” a year and a half ago has been an amazing adventure. Having lived in Grosse Pointe since graduating from the University of Michigan, the move has also been quite challenging with the crazy driving experience, eating lots of Mexican food, finding our way around and locating new physicians after all the years of St. John Hospital and Medical Center doctors. Finding a church has been quite a challenge, as most that we visited were mega churches with pastors like Joel Osteen. We finally settled on Carmichael Presbyterian Church which is difficult to compare with our Grosse Pointe Memorial Church where I was a member for over 50 years. The most glaring challenge has been leaving lifelong friends and affiliations.

Sacramento is known as the “hipster city”, and it claims to be the most diverse city in our country. The suburb where we live, Fair Oaks, is a beautiful community with many hills and absolutely gorgeous landscaping and vegetation with an abundance of orange and lemon trees. Our home has a beautiful pool and spa in the back yard, and the season from April until October has warm and wonderful weather. The winter is from November until the end of February. Snowboarding and skiing are just over an hour away in Lake Tahoe, and the season when the slopes can have an accumulation of 800 inches of snow is from September up until the 4th of July. We are fortunate in being able to walk in this beautiful

and hilly community year around with a very short rainy season. We will swim daily when the summer season begins.

Our most exciting trip was a boat ride down the Sacramento River, where the college-age tour guide, who was outfitted in pirates gear, told the history of the surroundings including the Gold Rush era. There were some places where the citizens used the river banks as their year-round homes. We are also enjoying being a short distance from Napa Valley.

We are living with our daughter Torey and son-in-law Troy and three cats named Nellie, Mama Kitty and Tinkerbelle along with a puppy named Ollie Bear. Our 17-year-old grandson, Cayden, is sponsored in skate boarding. With the abundance of skateboard parks, we have been the chauffeur for his numerous sessions.

My friendships and affiliations have been so important to me, and I am reaping the benefits and enlightenment from these many years of blessings. It is difficult to explain how much I miss my friends from the Fontbonne Auxiliary, years at Grosse Pointe South High School, Junior League of Detroit, church and my many years in Sigma Gamma Association and Foundation. I continue my interest in all of these associations and especially of keeping in touch with my dear friends. Lastly, I am so very proud of all of the Fontbonne Auxiliary members for reinventing and maintaining the wonderful friendships and dedication to our beloved hospital. ■

Spring has Sprung at Le Fontbonne Gift Shoppe

Spring is near, don't forget to stop in The Lefontbonne Gift Shop to

see what is new! We have a nice selection of Easter Décor and we are also offering a new line from Nora Fleming. Thank you for your

continued support as proceeds support our patients of Ascension St John Hospital!. ■

~ Linda Trevillian

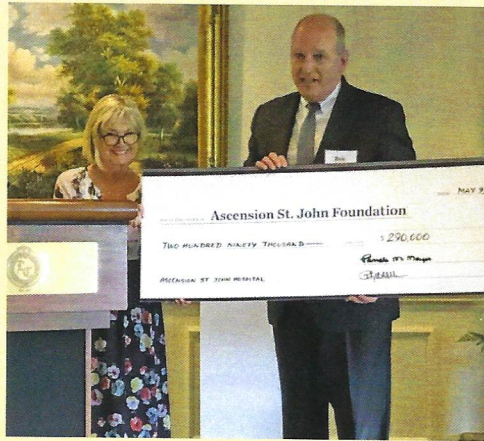


MAY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Another year of fundraising and 'friendraising' was celebrated at the Fontbonne's Annual General Meeting and Luncheon held at Lochmoor Club and hosted by Phyllis DeMars and Lorna Zalenski. President Pam Meyer proudly presented a check for \$290,000 to the hospital's president Bob Hoban. The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph was represented by Sr. Betty Granger, our Spiritual Director, who accepted a check for \$10,000.

Our new Fontbonne Board was introduced by our new energetic President, Lorna Zalenski and presented with a rose. See front cover for officers and board names.

New to our May meeting is the presentation of the Fontbonne Nursing Scholarships. Because of a special endowment established by the Fontbonne in 1989, we have been able to award annual scholarships to nurses who are enrolled in the Ascension St. John Hospital Nurse Extern Summer Program. A major change was implemented this year. The scholarships



were awarded to nurses employed by St. John Hospital. We proudly presented checks in the amount of \$3,500 to each very excited recipient. Congratulations to the following Ascension St. John nurses: Rebecca Hibbs, Heather Castile, Brian Pilarski, and Ashley Zimmerman. Thank you to our Fontbonne Selection Committee: Phyllis DeMars, Camille DeMario, Kim Plesco, Patty Stumb, and Lorna Zalenski. It was very special to present these scholarships in the presence of our members and we hope to continue this tradition each year. ■



SEPTEMBER GENERAL DINNER MEETING

Our September Board Meeting was a huge success thanks to our chairs, Pat Connelly and Phyllis Howard. A delicious pasta buffet, served by the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, followed the meeting. Dr. Kevin Grady, president of the hospital, thanked the Fontbonne Auxiliary for their 72 years of support and service. He announced patient satisfaction is going up which is good news. The Catheterization Lab and Specialty Stroke Unit are under construction and different areas of the hospital are being repainted. Sod has been replaced and the sprinkling system has been repaired. The Specialty Stoke Unit will open in October 2019 and our Fontbonne sign will be hung soon. The Women's and Children's entrance to the Emergency Room will get a new overhang.

The evening's topic was "Living Our Mission; An Ongoing Journey in Holistic Medicine at Ascension St. John." Our speakers for the evening were Lacey Lefere, Nursing Director,

Magnet Program and Behavioral Health and Mary Natschke, RN - Holistic, Clinical Aromatherapist. Hand massages were provided by Dawn Naidow.

Ascension St. John Hospital has been on a formal journey in Holistic Nursing for over 10 years.

The tools, resources and practices fostered in this culture have enabled us to more effectively live the mission of Ascension Health - to provide spiritually-centered, holistic care to our patients and communities. The speakers proudly spoke of their successes with holistic practices and a helpful question and answer period followed. Each Fontbonne member enjoyed a hand massage and went home with an aroma therapy stick that when

breathed in brings soothing calmness.

We are so fortunate that our hospital offers a holistic approach to facilitate the natural and instinctive healing process of the human body. ■



THE Fontbonne AUXILIARY *Fashion* for **FREEDOM**

Dear Friends of the Fontbonne Auxiliary,

Due to the present concerns with regards to the Coronavirus, the Fontbonne Auxiliary will be cancelling our fashion show "Fashion for Freedom" scheduled for April 2, 2020 at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club. Being pro-active in fighting the spread of the virus is by far the most reasonable action to take rather than perpetuating it and unknowingly exposing many to the virus.

The Fontbonne Auxiliary has made a commitment that the funds raised from the fashion show would support the DeMars Family Endowment Fund Against Human Trafficking, and we intend to fulfill our commitment to such a worthwhile and much needed cause. We know that our decision to not hold the fashion show is the right one.

The Fontbonne Auxiliary is making "Fashion for Freedom", a Coronavirus Non-event Event. If you have already made a donation as a Sponsor, Underwriter, Patron, Advertiser or Attendee, we are hoping and praying that you will consider your generous actions as a monetary donation to the cause, and we will receipt you for the full amount for tax purposes. In doing so, you will be helping us to fulfill our commitment in the fight against human trafficking. If you have not sent in a donation, please consider contributing to this worthwhile effort.

If you have any questions or would like to make other arrangements, please call Kathy McDonald in the Fontbonne office at 313-343-3675 or email her at Kathleen.mcdonald1@ascension.org.

May God Bless and Protect Your Families! ■

FONTBONNE MEMBERSHIP

Our Membership Committee, Camille Cracchiolo and Linda Schaden, have work diligently to update our membership files and to get a new Membership Directory out to you, our valued members. A new Directory was mailed in December to all of our Life and Annual Members along with a letter from Lorna Zalenski, our President and the form to renew Annual Membership. If you haven't sent in your renewal, we encourage you to do so as

soon as possible. Life Membership is \$500.00 and Annual Membership is \$50.00. Kathleen McDonald, our new Fontbonne/Guild Coordinator, would be happy to take your membership by phone as well if you call the office at 313-343-3675. The committee is also asking our members to take a look through the Directory and if you notice an error in an address or any other concerns that you notify Kathy in the office so that our next Directory is even more accurate. ■

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Cellular Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Birthday: _____

Make check payable to Fontbonne Auxiliary or bill my
☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Card Number: _____

Exp. Date: _____ CVV Number: _____

Signature: _____

Mingle & Jingle All The Way!!



There were festive jingles in the air as our Fontbonne members and guests mingled with one another at the lovely Lochmoor Club in November. Our hostesses with the mostess, Camille DiMario and Pam Meyer, planned a fun day of friend raising, shopping and entertainment.

Our trendy LeFontbonne Gift Shoppe was invited to bring their clothes, jewelry, accessories and gift suggestions for all to see and buy. Discounts for purchases were offered to all who attended. After a delicious gourmet luncheon we were all entertained by the talented 5th graders from Grosse Pointe Academy who put us all in the Christmas spirit with their choice of carols. After the show, the students took the time to meet and mingle with their audience.

The afternoon was a highlight to the start of the holiday season and a delight to all who attended and "shopped until they dropped!". ■

Since 1947, the Fontbonne Auxiliary has served the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of our community through its support of St. John Hospital & Medical Center.

MEMBERSHIP

I wish to: ☐ Renew my membership

☐ Apply for membership as (check one)

☐ Annual Member - \$50

☐ Life Member - \$500 (one-time donation)

2020 Fontbonne Upcoming Events

May 15, 2020
May General Membership Meeting
Lochmoor Club

TBD
**September General
Membership Meeting**
TBD



TBD
**Mingle Jingle
December General
Membership Meeting**
TBD

December 4, 2020
**2020 Fontbonne
White Christmas Ball**
The Henry, Dearborn

www.stjohnfontbonne.org

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

Editor: *Patty Stumb*

Any suggestions for articles that may be appropriate for publication in **Fontbonne Facts** should be submitted to: Fontbonne Auxiliary
22201 Moross Road, Professional Building II, Suite 450, Detroit, MI 48236.

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