Living Pain Free with IBD

Also inside:
Atlantic Health's Roadmap
New Programs and People
A Poet, A Baker,
A Ceramic Heart Maker
Our New Website's Launch
ED and Oncology Construction
What’s in a Name?

In the winter Journal, we tested your knowledge of seven benefactors to Morristown Memorial. Here are eight more honored by name at the hospital. Can you figure out who’s who?

1. The Aresty Family Day Hospital
2. Dorothy and Lloyd Huck Chair, Department of Cardiovascular Medicine
4. Leonard Szerlip, DDS, Dental Center
5. Shinn-Lathrope Health Sciences Library
6. Eileen and Joseph Matt Outpatient Dialysis Unit
7. The Farris Family Vascular Lab Suite

A. This couple, dedicated donors for more than 50 years, bequeathed to the hospital $7.3 million in unrestricted funds – at the time, the largest gift Morristown Memorial ever received from a single family. The pharmaceutical laboratory he founded was acquired and eventually became Warner Lambert.

B. These high school sweethearts, who lived in the Morristown area for nearly nine decades, left their sizable estate to local charities, including the hospital, when they died 12 days apart.

C. This family is recognized in each of the main buildings on campus, a nod to their gracious support across service lines. He is a retired COO of Beneficial Corp. and retired president and CEO of Beneficial Management.

D. Medical adversity has motivated this family to help others with medical challenges. Their generosity extends into neuroscience, cancer center outreach and most recently the Emergency Department.

E. One is a flight instructor turned investment banker turned professor of English literature; the other was president of the hospital’s medical staff for two terms in the 1920s and 1930s.

F. The center named for this former department chairman provides specialized care to Morris County’s economically disadvantaged and developmentally disabled.

G. In retirement on Penn State’s campus, this former chairman of Merck & Co. and his wife attend classes, theater and football games just as they did as undergraduates, but now they also fund scholarships and steer promising students into the medical field.

H. These two sets of brothers and their spouses not only collaborated in business – Alfred Dunner, Inc. women’s apparel – but also in philanthropy with this generous gift. Family members include former and honorary Health Foundation trustees and an Augusta Stone Award winner.

Answers on back cover

Cover photo: Becky Bedrosian | Pictured: IBD patient Cassie Sheehan
As Morristown Memorial’s new chief operating officer and president-elect, one of my roles is to deliver the hospital’s aggressive and revolutionary strategic plan. Our new roadmap was created by talented planning teams, co-led by physicians and staff members who identified priorities and growth strategies as well as the needed resources to achieve our lofty goals. The overriding vision: that by 2012, Atlantic Health will be recognized as one of the nation’s best health care systems.

To help Morristown Memorial reach this pinnacle, our mission has been improved upon. Its core remains the same – “Deliver high-quality, safe, affordable patient care” – but the coda, “within a healing culture,” has been added.

Of course, our number one goal remains the same, to always provide world-class care and to continue to offer the best physicians, nurses, technicians, equipment and facilities. But we’re also shifting our culture to one that delivers patient- and family-centered care, where patients and families become partners in the healing process. It must be noted that this is a major overhaul and will challenge many longstanding beliefs of how care should be given.

To assist with the process, we’ve partnered with Planetree, a national non-profit organization that promotes innovative models of health care that focus on healing and nurturing the body, mind and spirit. The name Planetree harkens back to the tree Hippocrates sat under as he taught some of the earliest medical students in Greece. With Planetree’s assistance, we’ll revisit basic fundamental principles on how to deliver care and look at ways to place the patient and the family at the center. One change, for example, includes examining visitor restrictions and adopting a policy like that of Goryeb Children’s Hospital, one that encourages family members to be with the patient as much as possible. This strategy gives the family more control over the healing process and defers hospital rules to the family’s wishes.

Similarly, Morristown Memorial will look to improve the ways it provides a healing culture for its patients. Over the next few years, we plan on merging our many integrative medicine programs into one initiative to help heal our patients. It’s been scientifically proven that holistic approaches, such as relaxation and visioning methods, result in reduced use of pain medications and hospital stays after surgery. By making a range of holistic offerings available, coupled with the best of Western medicine, we’ll provide patients with a better overall experience.

And finally, now that President Obama signed health care reform into law, we need to take immediate action so we can handle the approximately 920,000 New Jersey residents who will gain improved access to health care in January 2014, when the bill takes effect. Our strategic plan already included provisions to expand our network of primary care doctors, but with the new law enacted, this task becomes more crucial. Currently, New Jersey is facing a shortage of primary care doctors, and Morristown Memorial needs to do all it can to attract and retain these essential physicians. Our plans include helping medical residents by granting loans and income guarantees. By enacting the changes outlined in our strategic plan, we’ll also make Morristown Memorial a more attractive career option for primary care physicians.

I look forward to working with you as we enact our strategic plan, setting our path to be a leading health care provider in our region and the nation.
Not only did 16-year-old Brittany Linton learn to bake by watching her grandmother, she also picked up some secrets along the way, like a little orange juice makes a cake moister. Today Ms. Linton is putting her acquired baking acumen to good use while earning a Girl Scout Gold Award.

Every Tuesday night for 18 weeks, Ms. Linton has baked treats for the Wednesday Music in the Atrium program at Carol G. Simon Cancer Center. That’s when volunteers descend on the center’s lobby and offer visitors coffee, sandwiches and treats while pianist Bob Egan entertains the crowd. Ms. Linton, a junior at Basking Ridge High School, also whipped up cookies for Daffodil Day on March 16 (see adjacent story).

Each week is a new creation. Scouring cookbooks and online recipe sites, Ms. Linton has baked brownies with icing, lemon bars and Irish scones for St. Patrick’s Day. Everything is from scratch, no boxed concoctions for this dessert connoisseur. “It’s just a little something I can do to turn someone’s day around,” she says.

Flower Power

Flowers can surely lift anyone’s spirits, as patients who visited Carol G. Simon Cancer Center on March 16 can attest. That day, employees from DRS Technology were on hand to give patients daffodils to mark the American Cancer Society’s annual Daffodil Day campaign.

“I think the personal act of handing someone a flower and brightening their day is a powerful connection,” Susan Barry, director of risk management for Parsippany-headquartered DRS. Ms. Barry, who led her volunteer team of co-workers, is a breast cancer survivor who received radiation treatment at the cancer center.

Looking Out for Fellow Patients

Third grader Courtney Kelling of Oakland knows all too well how hard it is to spend time in the hospital. A long-time patient of pediatric surgeon Kerry Bergman, MD, Courtney asked her friends to help her celebrate her 9th birthday by ice skating and bringing toys for the Child Life Program at Goryeb. The guests certainly heeded the birthday girl’s wishes, as Courtney; her mom, Holly; and her sister, Brittany, recently delivered over 100 games, toys, puzzles and dolls and three boxes of books to the hospital, with more goodies yet to come.
A Playful Poet Gives Back

While growing up in Paterson, Gloria Duva DiRicco Knapp received sage advice from her father, Carmino DiRicco, who told her: “Laugh, and the world laughs with you, cry and you cry alone.” Today, Mrs. Knapp follows his recommendation by crafting playful poems that explore snippets of everyday life, from dealing with cancer to rooting for the New York Giants and eating cannolis.

Her collection of poems, Black, White and Shades of Poetry, was released in November and 20 percent of the proceeds will benefit Carol G. Simon Cancer Center in honor of Kenneth Adler, MD.

“He’s the best; he’s not only medically astute but he handles the emotions, too,” she says of Dr. Adler, who has treated her for multiple myeloma for over 20 years. Twelve years ago, she also underwent a successful surgery for colon cancer.

Mrs. Knapp started writing in 1999, after the death of her mother, Rose. “I felt like she was speaking through me,” says the senior citizen. “I don’t know the rules; I just write what comes to me.”

For more information on Black, White and Shades of Poetry, please visit Mrs. Knapp’s web site at www.gloriaknapp.9f.com.

HOPE is Their Medium

Hand-painted ceramic hearts bearing messages such as “Stay Strong,” “Courage” and “You are Loved” were given to patients at Gagnon Cardiovascular Institute, thanks to 150 art students at Verona High School. Participating in the “Hearts of Hope” project, the students created original designs for each heart trinket. The non-profit “Hearts of Hope” organization provides counseling and outreach services to those suffering from illness and loss.

Ben (now 10) Takes Action

In the spirit of his cartoon superhero Ben10, Ben Lam celebrated his 10th birthday dodging alien forces and shooting some monster hoops at the Livingston YMCA on February 21. In lieu of birthday presents, the budding action hero asked his fellow fourth graders from Hillside Elementary School in Livingston to share their awesome powers by bringing toys for patients at Goryeb Children’s Hospital. Contributions included remote control and Hot Wheels® cars, board games and action figures.

Bowling Anyone?

Patients at Goryeb Children’s Hospital can go for a strike on the new Wii gaming system and console donated by the Parsippany-based Wyndham Hotel Group, through the Starlight Starbright Children’s Foundation. The Fun Center will amuse and distract pediatric patients during hospital stays. Starlight Starbright Children’s Foundation strives to improve the quality of life for children with chronic or life-threatening illnesses by providing entertainment, education and family activities.

Pictured above: Ben Lam (center) celebrating his 10th birthday; patients at Goryeb Children’s Hospital playing Wii bowling; Wyndham Hotel Group Chief Technology Officer Venky Rangachari demonstrating Wii bowling; Verona High art student Alyssa Drennan.
To plan an event of your own, call Eileen Heltzer at 973-593-2412.

Meeting Teen Needs

Adolescence is a tough time for teens, what with changing bodies, peer pressure and dating. Soon they will have a forum where they can chat with health care professionals and find accurate answers to their questions.

Through a two-year pledge of $20,000 from Verizon, Atlantic Health is restructuring its interactive resource TeenHealthFX.com so teenagers can find reliable information on everything from alcohol to sexual health. The funds will help revise the site’s search engine so teens can more easily peruse the 7,000 pages of information, build a base of Twitter followers so the TeenHealthFX staff can tweet on hot topics, and launch and maintain a Facebook page, where visitors can post comments and staff can include relevant articles.

Welcoming an Honorary Knight

Just at a time when Dylan Ferri, a patient at the Valerie Fund Children’s Center, was missing his three older brothers, 11 varsity basketball players from Gill St. Bernard’s (GSB) jumped in to fill the void. The team paired up with the 14-year-old to offer encouragement and support through “Teams4Kids,” created by Ed Moriarty, a GSB parent, and Dave Pasquale, the GSB basketball coach.

A huge basketball fan, Dylan sat with the Knights during games and joined them in the locker room at half-time when they discussed strategies. Dylan didn’t log as much game time as he would have liked, because of his treatments and hospital stays. Nonetheless, the players reached out with cards and text messages to their new friend, making the experience a slam dunk for all.

“They made me feel like I was part of their team,” says the Chester resident.

Bear Hugs and More from KPMG

There’s nothing like a teddy bear to squeeze when you’re feeling down, and now young patients with cancer and blood disorders at the Valerie Fund Children Center have home-made bears for cuddling. Over 300 bears were created by employees at KPMG LLP in Montvale this past December, in lieu of a company holiday party. And for the firm’s Family Volunteer Day in October, children crafted 53 get well cards, which were delivered to patients with bags of Play-Doh. KPMG LLP, an audit, tax and advisory firm (www.us.kpmg.com), is the U.S. member of KPMG International Cooperative.

A Jewel of an Idea

Over 30 women browsed necklaces adorned with starfish, jeweled rings and bangles and delicate children’s bracelets at a party hosted by Robyn Brown, wife of cardiothoracic surgeon John Brown III, MD, on March 25. The bustling event raised over $3,000 for new wireless video EEG equipment at the Pediatric Epilepsy Center at Morristown Memorial and Overlook hospitals.

Currently, children undergoing monitoring for long periods of time are restricted to their hospital beds; the new equipment will give them back their mobility.

“This equipment will make such a difference in the lives of children undergoing testing,” says Mrs. Brown, who knows from experience. The couple’s 13-year-old son, Carl, suffered a seizure two years ago and underwent monitoring.

Featured jewelry was created by designer Michelle Guest, founder of MICA Jewelry. Mrs. Brown’s inspiration for the party came from friend and fellow epilepsy fundraiser Julie Faneca (see story on page 11).

Faces in Philanthropy

To plan an event of your own, call Eileen Heltzer at 973-593-2412.

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S’mores All Around

Swimming and canoeing at summer camp were a big part of childhood for Stacy and David Landau. That’s why the Montville couple founded the Gift of Camp in 2007, through Mr. Landau’s firm, David Landau and Associates, LLC in Fairfield.

Gift of Camp provides summer camp scholarships to patients at the Valerie Fund Children’s Center at Goryeb Children’s Hospital and their siblings. “Summer camps are important in a child’s life to teach independence and sports skills and to instill confidence,” says Mrs. Landau.

Last year, a panel of social workers selected six campers, based on their financial need and their ability to meet the camp’s social, physical and medical requirements. This year, the Landaus hope to send 10 deserving children.

A mother whose two sons received scholarships wrote: “What you have done for our children has given them memories they will carry with them forever.”

A Star Turn for Beloved Doctors

White and teal balloons – the colors of Morristown Memorial – flanked hospital entrances on March 31 in celebration of Doctor’s Day. An abundance of postcards adorned with gold stars and grateful handwritten messages from patients and hospital staff lined the hallways, and doctors were presented with pens that tripled as flash drives and laser pointers. The honored guests enjoyed a complimentary buffet breakfast and lunch. To show their appreciation, 64 patients donated over $9,000 in honor of their favorite doctors. Dolores Doyle, a patient of John Cosmi, MD, wrote: “My heart belongs to you! Thanks for treating it with care and competence.”

Baskets Beckon for Palliative Care

Jackie Swayze, NICU nurse educator, couldn’t think of a better way to spend her birthday on March 8 than selling tickets at the Employee Basket Raffle. Along with Priscilla Kooy, respiratory therapist, she greeted visitors who took chances on the 128 baskets, which were donated by Atlantic Health employees.

“We have a great time each year; we laugh the whole day,” says Ms. Kooy, a five-year raffle veteran who arrived at dawn with the balloons that decorated the room.

The raffle raised over $14,000, which was matched by the Health Foundation, yielding $28,000 for the hospital’s palliative care team, which assists terminally and chronically ill patients and their families by providing pain management and spiritual, social and emotional support.

Soothing Mind and Body

Following the lead of ancient healers, Carol G. Simon Cancer Center has long tapped into the therapeutic quality of music, believing it alleviates pain, lowers blood pressure and boosts immunity. Since 2002, over 1,650 patients have benefited from the center’s Jeffrey F. Wacks Music Therapy Program. This past year the number increased due to a $15,000 gift from The Chubb Corporation, which was used to hire a part-time music therapist for the inpatient oncology unit.
Like any typical teen, Cassie Sheehan enjoyed going with her friends to the movies and the mall and playing high school sports. That was until last May, when sudden stomach cramps gripped her body and her digestive tract became explosive, wreaking havoc with her life.

“I was so sick I couldn’t do anything,” says the 17-year-old. “I was tired and couldn’t go out. I tried to stay as still as I could because it was so painful. I couldn’t hang out with friends and was always worried about where the bathroom was.”

After becoming dehydrated, Ms. Sheehan ended up in Morristown Memorial’s Gagnon Pediatric Emergency Department, where she and her family met the team headed by Joel Rosh, MD, director of the Pediatric Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) Center at Goryeb Children’s Hospital. He delivered the unsettling diagnosis: Ms. Sheehan had ulcerative colitis, a form of IBD that causes inflammation of the digestive tract, specifically the large intestine or colon. When medication and steroids failed to help, Ms. Sheehan faced three successive surgeries performed by Kerry Bergman, MD, that ultimately removed her colon.

Throughout the process, the Sheehan family found Dr. Rosh and the network of services at the center invaluable. After each surgery, no matter the time, Dr. Rosh visited Cassie’s bedside. “He is so thorough,” says Mrs. Sheehan. “He’d sit with us for an hour and explain things.” Then there was the social worker who helped the family complete forms for Cassie’s school; the dietician who eased Cassie’s fears and told her which foods to avoid; the nurses who scheduled procedures and always followed up; and the hospital’s child life specialist who checked in on Cassie and lent her a laptop computer.

This extensive network provided by the center is exactly what Dr. Rosh envisioned when he came to Morristown Memorial 15 years ago, after training with world-renowned IBD specialists at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City. Today the center’s team, comprised of seven physicians, specially trained IBD nurses, nurse practitioners, a dietician and a social worker, treats about 800 pediatric patients annually.

Both chronic and hereditary, IBD is commonly divided into two sub-types: Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis. Approximately 50,000 American children and adolescents have IBD, which causes inflammation of the gastrointestinal tract, leading to diarrhea, stomach cramps and even loss of bowel control. Children who suffer from IBD often have growth problems.

“I'm glad I went through what I did,” she says, “because it made me who I am today, and I’m thankful to everyone who helped me.”
Adam Zylberman chats with Dr. Joel Rosh during a monthly infusion of medication. The busy eighth grader, who plays lacrosse for both his middle school and a travel team, often dozes during the four-hour sessions before resuming his rigorous schedule.

Photo: Becky Bedrosian
Soon newborn babies being weighed for the first time at Morristown Memorial’s Maternity Center won’t have to be placed on a cold scale, thanks to a $260,000 gift from the Women’s Association which will fund the purchase of six Panda® Warmers and two operating tables.

“Babies will be weighed right on the new warmers, which hold the heat better than the old ones,” says Donna Poplawski, RN, Maternity Center manager. As for the operating tables, the new ones are better for tilting and lifting patients.

“We greatly appreciate this gift,” she adds. “It gives us state-of-the-art equipment to go with our brand new unit.” Renovations on the 81,500-square-foot Maternity Center will be completed in 2011.

Over 800 members comprise the all-volunteer Women’s Association, which donated $1.6 million to the hospital last year. “It’s amazing what a group of energetic, focused women can do,” says Tina Mulhare, president. In fact, the organization’s reach just expanded with the creation of two new Twig groups in Chatham and Harding.

A Gift of WARMTH

HELP Coming to Combat Delirium

When elderly patients visit the hospital they can become disoriented and even develop delirium. To offset this condition, one anonymous donor recently gave $170,000 and another, the Marion E.C. Walls Trust, pledged $150,000 to start the Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP).

Delirium, caused by a combination of illness, immobilization, drug side effects and sleep deprivation, is marked by profound confusion, agitation, combativeness and lethargy.

“Between 15 and 20 percent of elderly hospitalized patients will experience delirium and in some settings, such as the ICU, more than 50 percent will develop it,” says Dr. Zaubler, MD, MPH, chairman and medical director of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health. The costs, he adds, are enormous, for a patient’s quality of life and medical care.

HELP, a comprehensive delirium prevention program, will begin this spring on Jefferson 4, and an elder life specialist will be hired to coordinate volunteers and screen patients over age 70. Trained volunteers will engage enrolled patients in memory and concentration tasks and assist with routine daily activities.

“This is an elegantly simple but effective intervention; up to 40 percent of all delirium episodes can be prevented,” says Dr. Zaubler, whose tireless efforts explaining the value of HELP were instrumental in securing the program’s support.

Promoting Early Intervention
Funding Allows Launch of New Fetal Program

Harold and Deborah (Hanson) Imperatore are well aware of the stress, uncertainty and heartbreak that accompany a baby born with health problems. In 1991, their 2-month-old daughter, Paige Whitney, died from SIDS, shortly after undergoing surgery for kidney disease.

Since then, Mrs. Imperatore has often wondered: If a program had been in place to support her through the medical challenges, would their outcome have been different?

Today, her entire extended family, including the Hansons and Imperatores, is helping others in similar situations by providing funds to start the Fetal Diagnostic and Treatment Program at Morristown Memorial.

“Now pregnant mothers and parents of newborns can get the emotional support and expert advice that they need if there’s an issue,” says the Basking Ridge resident.

The funds will support the hiring of a genetic counselor to coordinate care when there’s a prenatal diagnosis, says Carlos Benito, MD, director of Atlantic Health’s Maternal Fetal Medicine. “We want to make sure the proper interventions occur prenatally, intra-partum, post-delivery and during home care,” he says.
Even though it’s the football off-season, 28 players and coaches from the New York Jets huddled together for “Block Out Epilepsy” on April 10, raising over $130,000 for the Pediatric Epilepsy Center at Morristown Memorial and Overlook hospitals. The event, hosted by former guard Alan Faneca and his wife, Julie, featured star athletes such as Mark Sanchez and Nick Mangold, who signed autographs for over 300 guests gathered at the Hanover Marriott in Whippany.

Event proceeds will purchase wireless video EEG equipment so children being monitored for long time periods won’t be restricted to their hospital beds. The new equipment will benefit patients like Anabelle Faneca, who, along with her dad, has epilepsy.

“This will make it easier on kids during testing because they can be mobile,” says Mrs. Faneca. With the new equipment, staff will be able to monitor children in the playroom and the hallway, making it possible to capture subtle events that are hard to diagnose and hard to treat, says Harvey Bennett, MD, director of child neurology at Atlantic Health. This latest technology will further set Atlantic Health’s program apart from others. While most nearby facilities do not employ physicians who specialize in seizure disorders and pediatrics, Atlantic Health has two: Lorraine Lazar, MD, PhD, director of the pediatric epilepsy program, and the newly hired Rajeshwari Mahalingam, MD. In fact, all the center’s physicians and staff are kid-friendly, including a pediatric neurosurgeon, a pediatric nurse practitioner, dedicated Electroencephalogram (EEG) technicians and child life specialists.

Due to the foresight and generosity of a Morris Township couple, Morristown Memorial will receive approximately half a million dollars for capital purposes. The E.W. Shirley Trust, a Charitable Remainder Unitrust (CRUT), was established by the late Esther Williams Shirley and her husband. The Shirleys named Morristown Memorial as the final recipient of this trust, which supplemented their income and that of their daughter, Charlotte Wyman, until her death two years ago.

Today, the benefits to establishing a CRUT include income for life or a specified term, a charitable income tax donation and savings on estate and capital gains taxes. The process is easy: donors simply transfer cash, securities, property or other assets into a trust that pays a fixed percentage annually.

To discuss establishing a CRUT, please contact Cynthia W. O’Donnell, JD, director of gift planning, at 973-593-2418.
This winter Morristown Memorial welcomed Christopher Eckman, PhD, a nationally recognized neuroscientist whose mission is to build a world-class research program at Atlantic Health. Dr. Eckman, a specialist on brain-related issues, comes to Morristown Memorial from the Mayo Clinic, where he served as full professor and chair in the Department of Neuroscience.

“One of my goals is to perform quality research that benefits our patients and to conduct studies that benefit patients around the world,” says Dr. Eckman, director of research and academic affairs for Mid-Atlantic Neonatology Associates at Atlantic Health.

“Right now I’m working to develop a blood test to predict which children are at risk for neurological problems later in life,” he says, noting cerebral palsy as one disease being examined. “If successful, this may provide for early interventions that are not currently available. It will tell who is at risk so therapies can be tried right away instead of waiting until the child develops cerebral palsy.”

A noted Alzheimer’s disease expert, he will also focus on finding drugs that modify or stop the disease’s progression while also studying the genetic mechanisms that cause it.

When Transplants Aren’t an Option

Gagnon Cardiovascular Institute made medical history this winter when it became the first non-transplant medical facility in the country to implant a new FDA-approved device in a patient with advanced heart failure who wasn’t a candidate for a heart transplant. The patient, 71-year-old Carter Blankenship of Long Valley, became the first in the country to receive the HeartMate II Left Ventricular Assist System as an alternative to a transplant.

“This device offers life-saving potential to patients who may not otherwise survive,” said Frank Smart, MD, Dorothy and Lloyd Huck Chair, Cardiovascular Medicine at Atlantic Health. “We expect patients who receive the HeartMate II to experience a significant boost to their functional capacity and quality of life.”

Though transplants offer hope for approximately 2,000 advanced heart failure patients each year, more than 250,000 patients have no viable treatment option and are considered at high risk for repeated hospitalizations, severely diminished quality of life and limited life expectancy. HeartMate II is now an option for those who do not qualify for transplants due to age or other extenuating circumstances. Since the first procedure, Gagnon has performed three more implantations with three more being evaluated.

To support ground-breaking advances at Gagnon, please contact Hyona Revere, director of major gifts, at 973-593-2429.

Cancer Survivor Honored at Simon

To recognize its trustee emeritus, S. Jervis Brinton, Jr., the Fannie E. Rippel Foundation left the choice to the man himself: Where would he like to designate a $50,000 contribution in his honor? His decision – Carol G. Simon Cancer Center – took half a minute, because that’s the facility he credits for saving his life.

Mr. Brinton, a Watchung resident, served over 40 years as a Rippel Foundation trustee. “We owe a lot to him,” says Laura Landy, president and CEO. “At a time of trial, he took the reins and headed the foundation in the right direction.”

Last year, Mr. Jervis was diagnosed with cancer and sought treatment at the cancer center with oncologist Naveed Jan, MD, and radiation oncologist Mona Karim, MD. “I’m doing well, and I was very well cared for,” says Mr. Brinton, who served two terms as a Health Foundation trustee.

The Fannie E. Rippel Foundation, begun in 1953 through the will of Julius S. Rippel, strives to improve health care and lower medical costs for Americans. It works regionally to seed innovation, catalyze change and create processes that can significantly impact the nation.
The Emergency Department expansion campaign received a recent boost with a $50,000 pledge from the Blanche & Irving Laurie Foundation and a $30,000 pledge from the Frelinghuysen Foundation.

“These generous gifts facilitate our ability to provide state-of-the-art care in a timely manner with more privacy and in a more comfortable environment,” says Mark Mandell, MD, chairman, Department of Emergency Medicine at Morristown Memorial. “Patients tend to stay in the Emergency Department for a longer time and to have more extensive work-ups than in the past. We are raising money to create the Emergency Department of the future.”

The second phase of the project, construction on the Red/Trauma Zone, will begin this spring and will be completed in a year. So far, $3.1 million has been generated through philanthropy for the $22 million expansion project, with $1.4 million left to raise. Once complete, the 49,000 square-foot facility will have 28 additional beds in private rooms – not curtained areas – and three trauma surgical suites, which can each be separated in two, providing six operating areas.

The way William E. and Carol G. Simon lived their lives imparted a profound message to their children: Give back to the community, especially to those in need.

Mr. Simon, a hospital Eucharistic minister, was a successful financier and served as Secretary of the Treasury for Presidents Nixon and Ford. Mrs. Simon, meanwhile, raised their children and volunteered at Morristown Memorial, where she served as a candy striper.

Over 40 years ago, the couple started a philanthropic relationship with the hospital that has helped make it what it is today. Contributing funds through the William E. Simon Foundation, they helped establish Carol G. Simon Cancer Center and refurbished the former Madison Wing, which was renamed the Timothy Charles Simon Building in memory of their son. Today, the couple’s children, William Simon, J. Peter Simon, Mary Streep, Leigh Porges, Aimee Bloom, Julie Munro and Katie Morris, serve on the foundation’s board and strive to fulfill their parents’ philanthropic directive.

As chairman of the Health Foundation’s board of trustees, Peter Simon has worked tirelessly along with his wife, Janet, the co-chair of the Women’s Health Philanthropy Council, to raise funds for a myriad of hospital causes.

Mrs. Porges co-founded One-Gift, which is celebrating its 20th year granting wishes for Morristown Memorial’s adult cancer patients to create memorable experiences, such as trips to Atlantic City or catered holiday dinners. “It was the way I was brought up, giving time, giving back,” says the Health Foundation trustee.

Project Independence, started by the senior Mr. Simon and now guided by Mrs. Bloom, is celebrating its 21st anniversary helping hospital patients in need due to a medical emergency. Whether by paying the rent or buying a wheelchair, she says, “I hope we’re helping people get back on their feet.”

Mrs. Morris, who, like her mom, served as a candy striper, sums it up succinctly: “The cancer center is a testament to my parents and their efforts to give back to the community. It’s important to continue the tradition my parents started.”

Foundations Support ED Campaign

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It has all the trappings of a fabulous party: a piano player with impromptu singers joining in, clusters of conversation at round tables and a generous sampling of delicacies for the crowd milling about.

At the center of the action is Jeanne Jaeckle, the commensurate host, who makes sure everyone is comfortable. Although this feels like a fabulous bash, the people she’s greeting are not guests; they’re patients entering the lobby of the Carol G. Simon Cancer Center. Every Wednesday morning, Mrs. Jaeckle and 10 fellow volunteers welcome patients to the cancer center with warm smiles and delicious snacks in conjunction with Music in the Atrium, which provides musical entertainment thanks to the Jeffrey Frank Wacks Memorial Fund.

“I’m always looking for a person who needs help,” says Mrs. Jaeckle, who, true to her word, approaches an older man struggling to walk with his cane. Within moments she has commandeered a wheelchair and someone to assist the gentleman.

Mrs. Jaeckle’s volunteer efforts were recently recognized by the Garden Club of Somerset Hills, which acknowledged her tireless commitment to helping patients at the cancer center. “It takes a rare person to do what she does,” says Nancy Hance, co-president of the Garden Club of Somerset Hills, which provides floral arrangements along with the Morristown and Madison Garden Clubs.

When Mrs. Jaeckle, herself a cancer survivor, started Music in the Atrium nine years ago with Linda Wacks, Lisa DeRosa and Judie Gerstein, she knew flowers would be an essential ingredient. She took a cue from her late friend, Carol Simon, who for years sent weekly arrangements anonymously to oncology patients.

Midway through the morning on this Wednesday, a nurse from the chemotherapy floor gives word that she has a distressed patient. Snapping into action, Mrs. Jaeckle sends roses to cheer her up.

All around, the lobby is abuzz. Volunteers, including Ed Jaeckle, Mrs. Jaeckle’s husband, man the food tables, ensuring that the muffins, bagels, sandwiches and home-baked cookies remain plentiful. Food is served on colorful paper plates, and lamps from the couple’s store, F. Gerald New in New Vernon, flank each clothed serving table.

While Bob Egan plays the piano, volunteer Eileen Brown belts out the tune, “All I Want Is Music.” The draw of the weekly festivities makes Wednesdays the busiest days at the cancer center, says Leah Oswanski, coordinator of music therapy: “People book their appointments to be here on Wednesdays.”

What Mrs. Jaeckle and the other volunteers offer is a distraction. “We don’t know about their illness,” she says. “We do know that they may not be having a great day, so we offer them a place to sit down and talk.”

As she speaks, a woman sits down nearby next to her ailing husband, who is in a wheelchair. Mr. Egan asks if there’s a song she’d like to hear. When she responds, “Never on Sunday,” Mr. Egan asks if there are any Greeks in the house. The woman beams and sings along. “That just makes my day,” says Mrs. Jaeckle, before getting up to pack the woman some treats to take home.

For those interested in donating to the Jeffrey Frank Wacks Memorial Fund, which underwrites Music in the Atrium, or the Health Foundation, please contact Eileen Heltzer, director of Annual Giving, at 973-593-2412.
Prepping Panda for Surgery
Fifteen members of the Kids4Kids Committee got a look at the pre-operation process as they watched a stuffed panda go through the paces at Goryeb Children’s Hospital in February. The young philanthropists are collecting toys and games for the pre-op area.

Denise Ruggia, RN, and Suzanne St. Germain, RN (in glasses) show what a surgery-bound pediatric patient can expect (taking liberties, of course, with non OR-approved attire).

Sneaking a Peek at Fawn Hill
On April 24, guests at the Mansion in May’s preview gala enjoyed exclusive tours of Fawn Hill Farm before the Harding Township estate opened to the public for the Women’s Association’s month-long fundraiser. They were also treated to a sumptuous meal, signature ‘Tulip Julep’ cocktails and an art installation featuring vintage doors stylized to promote awareness of the Emergency Department expansion, the beneficiary of this year’s Mansion in May.

Feeling Better Next Year
Women’s health specialist Dr. Donnica Moore returned to Malcolm Forbes Amphitheater on April 22 to lead a panel of Morristown Memorial’s medical experts in discussing nutrition, supplements and exercise and fielding questions on women’s health. Sponsored by the Women’s Health Philanthropy Council, the event drew 150 attendees and featured Joseph Ramieri, MD, chairman, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Women’s Health; Frank Smart, MD, Dorothy and Lloyd Huck chairman, Department of Cardiovascular Medicine; Nancy Cotter, MD, medical director, Atlantic Integrative Medicine; Bruce Aronwald, DO, director, Partner Medicine, and CEO, Healsa Partner Medicine; and David G. Scott, MS, coordinator, Exercise Physiology.

Pictured (front): Dr. Frank Smart, Dr. Nancy Cotter, Dr. Donnica Moore, Dr. David Shulkin and Dr. Bruce Aronwald; (back) David G. Scott and Dr. Joseph Ramieri.
With sad hearts we note the passing of Marguerite “Marge” Goryeb, 79, on January 11, 2010, after a short and sudden illness. The grandmother of nine grandsons was married to her high school sweetheart, Joseph P. Goryeb, for 58 years; the couple had three children: Joseph M. Goryeb, Richard P. Goryeb and Lynne Goryeb-Porfido.

Mr. and Mrs. Goryeb met their senior year of high school and married in 1952. A graduate of the Fashion Institute of Technology, Mrs. Goryeb was known as the designer “Miss Marguerite” for Galina Bridal. Her gowns graced the covers of bridal magazines such as *Modern Bride* and *House Beautiful’s Guide for the Bride.* Later, as vice president of Champion Mortgage Company, she designed the corporate headquarters and branch offices. A generous philanthropist, she, along with her husband and children, made the creation of Goryeb Children’s Hospital possible.

Above all, Mrs. Goryeb was dedicated to her family. “All our kids and grandkids live in the area, and they’re always in and out of our house,” says Mr. Goryeb. “Our grandkids were crazy about her. Her life was her kids and her grandkids.”

He calls her the ultimate mother, grandmother and wife. “The only time we were separated in almost 60 years of marriage was our first wedding anniversary, when I was stationed in Korea,” he says. “Wherever Margie was, I was.”