

December 2012

What are the faces of the V.I.A.? They are the women who volunteer at the hospital's front desk, patient transport, same day service, members who take calls from FISH, St. Vincent de Paul Society and social workers asking for Welfare Fund help for those needing assistance with rent, heat, or food. Others spend time with residents in assisted care at Pine Run and Lakeview. Some oversee the maintenance of the James-Lorah Memorial Home, hiring contractors to preserve its beauty; others review requests and approve funding for college courses taken by young women striving to improve their lives and the lives of their children.

One project that brings the faces of the V.I.A. to the public is the Bucks County Designer House & Gardens, a major fundraiser that has benefited Doylestown Hospital and our various community projects for thirty-six years. The 2013 Designer House Committee, chaired by Jo-Ann Cuning and Joyce Hanson, is committed to carrying on the tradition. However, each year brings the challenge of staffing the house with volunteer hostesses, day treasurers, café/boutique workers, etc. Because of the success of past Designer Houses, our organization is able to give back to the community. This year especially, your help is needed as volunteers for the 2013 Designer House, so I am asking you to give a few hours in May. Please add your name to the list of volunteers. You will be the faces of the V.I.A. seen by over 9,000 visitors touring the house this spring.

I promised to tell you of the V.I.A. tribute to Rich Reif who is retiring as CEO of Doylestown Hospital. The V.I.A. Board voted to approve the Richard A. Reif Culture of Caring Scholarship to be awarded each year for the next five years to a deserving high school student who has volunteered at the hospital for a minimum of 350 hours. As well as being a leader who inspires all who work with him, Rich has the ability to relate to everyone he meets, no matter their age. The idea of honoring Rich with a scholarship in his name came to mind as I observed how high school students look up to him during orientation sessions. He makes them feel valued and proud to be part of the hospital.

There is a deep message of caring within our organization and at the hospital. Did you know that Pastoral Care Director Pauline Sexton conducts a Service of Remembrance each month for those who have passed away in Doylestown Hospital? It is held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 9 AM in the Chapel to provide support for those who cared for the patients during their stay. All are welcome to attend. The chapel is open 24 hours a day. It's a pleasant and peaceful place to escape to for a few minutes during a busy day.

I wish you Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, and Happy Holidays, with time to reflect on the significance of the holidays and give thanks for the gift of friends and family.

Marianne Chabot

President

January 8, 2013 – Tuesday, 1:00 p.m.

**JLMH Auditorium
“DIY HIP Chicks”**

Presenter	Beth Allen
Program Coordinator	Terrie Mooradd
Greeters/Tea Servers	Liz Fetterman & Jean Upton
Meditation	Jean Leister
Hospitality Captains	Pam Good & Peg Houck

Program Preview

Linda K. McIlhinney

Join us for our 1st V.I.A. meeting of the New Year on Tuesday, January 8th where we'll enjoy a unique program, “DIY HIP Chicks-Self Reliance Through Home Repair”. Founder and President Beth Allen will speak to us about how we can be independent and self-reliant when it comes to taking care of those lists of house repairs we all find so easy to overlook or put off. Beth will introduce us to the concept of how to be smart, knowledgeable and capable enough to do it ourselves and get our homes ship shape. Many thanks to our presenter Terri Mooradd for recommending this interesting program. Happy Holidays to All... See You in 2013!

In The Works!

Attention New Year's Resolution Makers.....

The V.I.A. and Cornerstone Health Clubs is joining together for a special corporate rate for our ladies. As a V.I.A. member you will receive a special rate of \$55.00 per month for club membership with the same rate for a second family member which will be honored at all 3 club locations. Whitney Proud, Marketing Director of The Cornerstone Clubs will join us in January to speak about this offer. Good Health in the New Year.

PICK UP LOCATION

Shuttle pick up for the January membership meeting will be on **LEVEL 1** at the Broad St. entrance at 12:30 p.m.

Liz Fetterman - Coordinator

1895 Society – Now, Then, Forever

Joan Parlee

Thank you to all who have donated and pledged to the Then, Now & Forever Campaign. In our second month we added \$2,000 to our total.

It is important that every V.I.A. member contribute to this effort to build the unrestricted endowment of our organization and ensure it's future.

Please make checks payable to the V.I.A. with TN&F on the memo line and send to the V.I.A. office. Also, please indicate whether yours is a single donation or a three year pledge. For more information or questions call me at 215.348.3249.

Thank you

Community Recognition Committee

Louise Woodruff

Do you know an individual group or business whose efforts have contributed to the Village Improvement Association purposes?

I would like your nominations by March 15, 2013. Please contact me at 215.343.6688 if you would like to review previous recipients.

Digital Option for V.I.A. Newsletter

To start receiving your newsletter via e-mail please contact Marie Johnston at mjohnston1@gmail.com

Inclement Weather Alert

In the event of winter weather conditions such as ice or snow, membership meetings will be cancelled if the schools are closed in the Central Bucks School District. You can also call the V.I.A. office at 215.345.2347.



Veterans Committee

Jan Cope

As we end this year, we'd like to focus on some of our V.I.A. military families. We honor and thank all of you for your support.

Jackie Kennedy: My husband was a B-47 aircraft commander during the Cuban Missile Crisis. We had 2 small children. The base commander gave all the men time to say goodbye to their families. The civilian population had no idea how close we were to war. We thought we would never see each other again. Thank goodness the crisis ended the way it did.

Janet Punzak: My grandson-in-law, Captain Nathan White, is a J.A.G. (lawyer in the Judge Advocate General's corps) in the Air Force. His tour of duty has him stationed in Kabul, Afghanistan. We pray for his safe return.

Kathryn McKenna: My husband's Uncle Frannie served in the Air Force during WWII. Frannie was a bottom gunner on a bomber and was killed in Europe during the war. Years later, we came upon Frannie's letters to my father-in-law in a metal box. My husband put them in order and they are a fascinating look at his life during that time, and they brought Uncle Frannie to life for the subsequent generations of his family.

Phyllis Morris: My husband, Jim, was a member of the West Point Band at the Military Academy. We spent the first 3 years of marriage living in the Hudson Valley, off base. We considered staying and making it a career, but moved on to live in Miami, where son Brian was born.

Marianne Chabot: My uncle Steve served in the navy during WWII as an armed escort on ships. He recalls seeing ships being hit by torpedoes as they moved through the English Channel. My uncle Don was also stationed in England in WWII and spoke of being invited to the home of a British buddy who lived in Wales.

Phyllis Gagner: My husband, Gerald, was stationed in Germany along the Berlin Wall. After discharge, he went to the University of Utah on the GI bill. I also had a brother-in-law, Lt. Robert Conti, who died in Viet Nam while saving several of the marines under his command.

James-Lorah Memorial Home

Phyllis Morris

Happy Holidays from the James-Lorah Committee! We concluded a very busy eventful year with a successful Holiday Open House December 8th. The new year promises to be full of excitement and change with the continued planning and renovation of the auditorium restroom and completing outside painting.

In the spring we will be looking forward to our main fundraiser...An Evening at the Theatre. Mark your calendar for April 17, 2013. Details will be in up-coming Newsletters.

The winner of the Sunset in Tuscany quilt will be announced at a later date. Contact me for raffle tickets or get your winning ticket at the membership meetings.

Please see the decorated JLMH this month. Jane Lester and Terry Steinberg and committee did a beautiful job! Enjoy your holiday with family and friends.

New York Trip to see- "Newsies"

Mary Bachman

Join us for a trip to New York to see "Newsies"! Sunday, May 19, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. Here is a brief description:

News Boys sell **THE WORLD**, the newspaper of which Joseph Pulitzer is the publisher. He raises the cost the boys must pay for the paper, resulting in less money for the newsboys. The boys strike back! It's a fast-moving show, lots of action and a surprising outcome. Appropriate for all ages as it is a Disney production. Deposit of \$125/pp due Feb. 5th. Final payment is due by April 2013. Limited number of tickets available. Make check payable to: "V.I.A. of Doylestown" Attn: Mary Bachman. Call Mary with any questions @ 215.343.0547.

Welcome New Members!

Nicole Boytin	(215) 280.8589
Ruth Carlson	(215) 230.9417
Zoe Combs	(215) 933.5371
Jennifer Eckfield	(484) 341.8115
Romas Karen	(215) 491.5340
Kathleen Landis	(215) 340.5938
Cathy Makoid	(215) 794.3048
Karen Ramos	(215) 491.5340
Pat Shire	(215) 794.3219
Therese Szczurowski	(215) 794.2563

House Sitters Wanted

Maureen Chadwick

Please consider volunteering a few mornings or afternoons to house sit at the Designer House in March and April while the decorators work their magic. Get to see the transformation and pick up a few design tips for yourself at the same time. Contact me at 215.230.0270 or maureen.chadwick@verizon.net Please note the DOT between my first and last names in the email address.

January Birthday Greetings to:

Phyllis Gagner	1/01	Ritchie Ihrig	1/17
Esther Procknow	1/03	Kimberly Cambra	1/18
Suzanne Walsh	1/05	Kathleen Grasmeyer	1/19
Esther Thompson	1/06	Marilyn Mele	1/21
Kimberly Fillmore	1/08	Debra Renner	1/23
Margaret Martin	1/08	Denise Graebner	1/23
Peg Houck	1/08	Freda Samuels	1/24
Ruth Carlson	1/11	Mary Danzis	1/26
Naline Lai	1/12	Rhea Brown	1/26
Joan Parlee	1/13	Miriam Sursa	1/28
Coby Daniels	1/14	Peggy Cronin	1/28
Donna Walker	1/14	Kathleen Landis	1/29
Patricia Skowyra	1/14	Melvina Wolff	1/29
Emma Dungan	1/17	Roberta Keck	1/29

Fundraising

Sharon Orr

I wish to thank all the women who baked for the Holiday Cookie Sale. It was a great success with over 100 boxes of cookies sold. Again, Richie Ihrig contributed a beautiful Ginger Bread House that was the highlight of the sale. Along with the 50/50 raffle, we made over \$800.00.

We have also just completed a very successful Poinsettia Sale that made over \$600.00.

Thank you for your support. Have a Very Merry Holiday.

2013 Bucks County Designer House

Jo-Ann Cunning

Exciting things are happening at the Bucks County Designer House & Gardens. The selection process for choosing the designers and landscapers is nearing the end. The committees were thrilled with the number of participants. This year's house will be beautiful! There is still time and opportunity for anyone who would like to join the committee. We have so many great ideas but need more ladies to bring those ideas to life. Our Distribution Committee is in need of a chair person. The chair person of this committee would establish a list of area businesses in which to distribute our printed material. At the V.I.A. and Designer House meetings you would have members sign up and be responsible for delivering the materials. Follow up phone calls would be made in order to confirm that the information was received and is displayed in a visible place. The committee would also be responsible for getting people to deliver material to all waiting rooms in the hospital and doctors offices associated with Doylestown Hospital. This visibility is crucial for our success. I know all of you will do your part but we do need a person to be in charge. Please call me. 215.264.4949.

Thank you so much.

Advanced sale BCDH&G tour tickets are available for purchase. Send check for \$20, payable to Bucks County Designer House & Gardens and send to V.I.A. Office, Attn: Janet Punzak.

SAVE THE DATE

**The Empty House Party will be held on Sunday, February 24th from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Items are needed for the EHP Basket of Cheer.
Bring items to the Membership or Designer House meetings or drop off in the V.I.A. office.**

Newsletter Staff:

Marie Johnston, Editor	Joy Anderson
Phyllis Morris	Karen Simon
Barb Thompson	Betty Trossett

As you know, “the Party we all expected and the Party we all dreaded” took place on November 17th at Doylestown Country Club. That was how I started my speech in Rich’s honor and while it was a bitter sweet time for us, I think we did a pretty good job of honoring the man whom we all love and whom we will dearly miss. His portrait was unveiled by Marianne and two past Board Chairs, Pat Berry and Judy Melson. It will be hung in a special place so we can see it all the time. Hospital Board members, both past and present, gave a replica of Yesterday’s Shadows, a sculpture we knew he had long admired and wanted to own. Because the gifts were so generous, we also were able to contribute to the Heart Institute in his name and best of all the Board approved the changing of it’s name to the Richard A. Reif Heart Institute.

We have been busy at the hospital, with the Transition Advisory Board and the V.I.A. Selection Committee in selecting Rich’s successor. We have to look for the best person to lead us through very difficult and different times in Healthcare as well as fit into our culture. After reading many résumés, sitting through many interviews and days of discussion we are finally close to making a decision.

Now that the election is over, we know that the Affordable Care Act will remain the law of the land. It’s true there are still some legal challenges out there but I doubt that any will actually bear fruit. We do know that by 2025, there will be a need for 52,000 additional primary care doctors. This alone will be a major challenge since I am not sure young people will be attracted to the field of medicine with it’s long hours/lower income. More and more doctors will want to be employed by hospitals but that will stretch the budgets of hospitals beyond comfortable margins.

Superstorm Sandy was quite an experience for many and while we cannot compare our area to those so devastated by that storm, we still had much to deal with. Loss of power was the main obstacle for most of us but the Hospital came through with flying colors, not even losing power. Being prepared is half the battle and for three days prior to that storm everyone at the Hospital was gearing up for the worse. Every available space was converted into overnight accommodations for staff. Food and supplies were enough for at least 96 hours. There were a record number of ER visits (195) and community members came to eat, have coffee, power cell phones and use wifi and most of those did not have anyone as a patient in the Hospital. This was a terrific effort by all and with much success.

Financial results for the four month year-to-date ending on October 31st show the gain from operations is 9.2% below budget but is 274% higher than last year, inpatient discharges are below budget by 3.3%. All bond covenants ratios are meeting goal. Pine Run shows a year-to-date gain from operations as 13.2% below budget. Occupancy figures for both the Health Center and Lakeview are at or above budget with the village at 79.2% occupancy.

The Foundation Board met on Nov. 19th. Lisa Repko of the Development Com. reported that a new marketing Director will start Dec. 17th. The new ad campaign will include TV. The Circle of Life Auction netted over \$100K and the new auctioneer was very successful pulling in over \$17K with the “paddle call”.

Rich reported that of the six acute care hospitals in the county, five of them will have new CEOs within the next year. He also stated that he has been blessed and is appreciative of the impact we have on people’s lives.

I am always happy to share good news with you and the awards keep coming.

1. Our Emergency Dept. received the Press Ganey Summit Award for Excellence for sustaining consistently high levels of patient satisfaction over the past three years. Only 20 ERs in the nation were so awarded.
2. We received the Stroke Gold plus Quality Achievement Award from the American Heart Assoc.
3. The Surgery Center at the Health and Wellness Center was honored with the 2011/2012 National Apex Quality Award for outstanding patient satisfaction and quality.
4. The Orthopedic Program was named a Blue Distinction Center for knee and hip replacement.
5. The Hospital earned an A from the Leapfrog group for its Hospital Safety Score.

We have a lot to be proud of, a lot to be happy for and I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday.

Carolyn Della-Rodolfa
Vice President, Health Services

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December

18	JLMH Committee Meeting	JLMH	10:00 a.m.
25	V.I.A. Board Meeting - CANCELLED		

January

8	Membership Meeting	JLMH	1:00 p.m.
9	Welfare Meeting	Conf. Room "A"	9:00 a.m.
10	Fundraising Meeting	Conf. Room "A"	10:00 a.m.
15	Designer House Committee	JLMH	9:30 a.m.
20	Hospital Board Meeting	Conf. Room "K"	8:00 a.m.
22	JLMH Committee Meeting	JLMH	10:00 a.m.
24	Veterans Committee Meeting	JLMH	1:00 p.m.
29	V.I.A. Board Meeting	Conf. Room "K"	9:00 a.m.
29	Bylaws Meeting	Conf. Room "K"	10:30 a.m.