

Circle of Mercy

SAINT MARY HOME | THE MCAULEY

Winter 2014

The McAuley Celebrates its Silver Anniversary



Formal attire, cocktails and fine dining: it was clear that something important was going on at The McAuley on September 25th. “It feels like a royal wedding!” a beaming resident proclaimed as she was seated in the lounge late that afternoon. In fact, it was an anniversary. The McAuley was celebrating its 25th year as a vibrant Continuing Care Retirement Community. Festivities began with an elegant reception that included passed *hors d’oeuvres* and a raw bar.

The most noteworthy of those in attendance were a trio of residents who have lived at The McAuley since its doors first opened in 1988: Alma Collins, Betty DeNoyon, and Anne Taylor. Mrs. DeNoyon said that while The McAuley’s community has grown in number through the years, it is still as warm and family-like as the day she and her husband were escorted on their first tour.

Colleagues Pat Kaplan, Tam Ngo, and Caroline Pistritto have been at The McAuley since the beginning, as well. The three reflected on their tenure in light of the milestone anniversary. Caroline appreciates the good humor she and her colleagues share, while Tam said that The McAuley’s beautiful campus has always appealed to her. Ultimately, they all agreed that creating new relationships with residents has been the most rewarding part of their jobs.

In his remarks during the cocktail hour, The Mercy Community’s President and CEO, William J. Fiocchetta, acknowledged: “There is no more precious resource we have to offer than the gift of our attentive presence. Each of us decides for ourselves the most meaningful way to budget that resource – and where, for how long, and to whom we direct it. Tonight, on behalf of The Mercy Community, its Board of Trustees, and our founders, The Sisters of Mercy, I want to thank each one of you who has chosen to spend time at The McAuley. Whether you live or work here, you have invested yourself in what I believe to be the finest Continuing Care Retirement Community in the region: a world where seniors are empowered, compassionately served, and shown the reverence they so deeply deserve. May your returns exceed whatever you envisioned the first time you crossed this threshold.”

Following the cocktail reception, guests were invited to a surf-and-turf feast in the Main Dining Room. During the dinner, resident Frank Salamon gave an impromptu toast, thanking the colleagues who made the evening such a special celebration of the milestone anniversary.



“On the occasion of The McAuley’s 25th Anniversary, we fondly remember those friends who have gone before us and embrace the friends beside us.

May fortune still be kind to you,
And happiness be true to you,
And life be long and good to you,
Here’s to The McAuley
and to you!”

Sister Margaret Crowley, former executive director of The McAuley (right)

Bill Fiocchetta congratulates pioneer resident Alma Collins (far right)



Souvenir

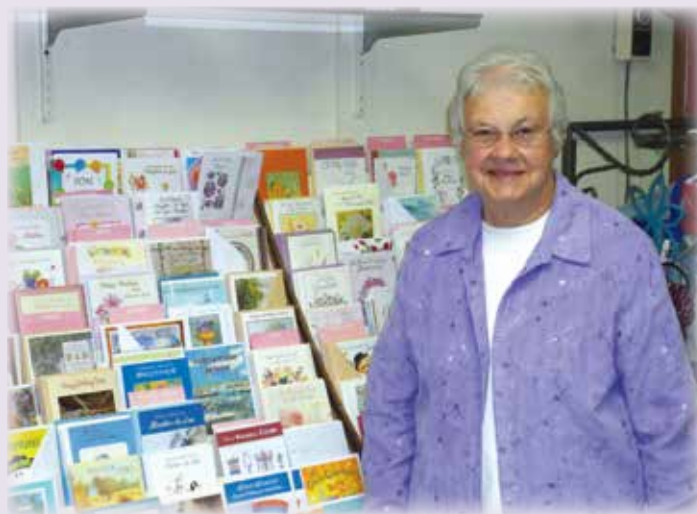
Most people treat their retirement as a time for rest and leisure. For Sister Irene Holowesko, it simply means moving on to address another need. As she prepares to move on from her ministry at The Mercy Community in January 2014, Sister Irene has already realized a lifetime of meaningful service. A career educator and former Administrator at Mercyknoll, Sister Irene has technically retired from two professions. Yet, she has continued to serve her community in a multitude of ways. She joined Saint Mary Home as its Gift Shop Manager two and a half years ago. At the time, there were limited hours of operation, and the selection consisted of greeting cards and candy. Since then, Sister Irene's efforts have transformed the Gift Shop into the General Store, which now sells toiletries, healthier snack options, crafts and gifts. And thanks to her resourceful shopping efforts, everything sold at the General Store is affordable for residents.

Not only has the General Store's presence been a much needed amenity for Saint Mary Home; it has also evolved into a place where regulars can socialize. “This is one of the happiest things I have ever done,” Sister Irene said. She has noticed that the General Store's customer base has grown to include residents' friends and family members, as well as Saint Mary Home colleagues. Hours have expanded, and residents commonly take an active role in the Store's selection by requesting specific products.

Enriching life at Saint Mary Home isn't the only project Sister Irene has tackled since leaving Mercyknoll in 2000. She started the Esperanza Program at Jubilee House in Hartford's South End, which helps poor working women jumpstart their college experiences by offering Saturday classes that are accredited through Capital Community College. On top of that, Sister Irene also participated in two home renovation projects for

the Sisters of Mercy. While Sister Irene's acts of service have taken place in a number of venues, a common thread can be found among them: improving the quality of life for those in need.

In January, Mercy Associate Norma Pelletier signed on as General Store Manager at Saint Mary Home. Active in her contributions to nonprofit organizations in the Hartford area, Norma is enthusiastic to carry on Sister Irene's work. According to Sister Maureen Reardon, Senior Vice President and Chief Mission/Compliance Officer, “Norma brings to this position a deep commitment and love for the ministry of the Sisters of Mercy and an appreciation for the services that the General Store provides to Saint Mary Home's residents, clients and colleagues.”



“These were unforgettable moments in a year that brought unprecedented support for our Mission, programs of care, and people.”

P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E



With the new year come countless opportunities for The Mercy Community to extend its reach through new relationships and initiatives. In this issue of *Circle of Mercy*, you will read about many of the outstanding events that took place in 2013: Archbishop Henry J. Mansell's blessing and dedication of The Maximilian E. and Marion O. Hoffman Foundation Entrance and the Jane Murphy and Joan Bergman Gardens at Saint Mary Home, Mercy Week, the 25th Anniversary of The McAuley, and a collaboration with the University of Hartford's Presidents' College on Connecticut's premiere screening of the documentary film *I Remember Better When I Paint*. These were unforgettable moments in a year that brought unprecedented support for our Mission, programs of care, and people.

In May 2013, our sponsoring corporation, Catholic Health East, merged with Trinity Health, Inc. to form the second largest Catholic health care entity in the United States.

This has exciting implications for The Mercy Community in terms of new learnings in best practices as our colleagues network with bright, talented counterparts across the nation, new advocacy efforts on behalf of our current and future residents and clients, and even new leadership, as Dr. Richard Gilfillan succeeds Interim President Judith Persichilli at the helm of CHE-Trinity Health. Judy Persichilli has been an extremely dedicated, inspiring force in the period leading up to and through this transition, and we at The Mercy Community are indebted to her for her support and stewardship. We very much look forward to working with Dr. Gilfillan on maximizing the success of our own organization and of the larger ministry in which it serves. *Read more about Dr. Gilfillan on page 15.*

As many of you know by now, Pope Francis appointed Leonard P. Blair, former Bishop of Toledo, Ohio, as the new Archbishop of Hartford effective December 16. On behalf of The Mercy Community, I am delighted to welcome Archbishop Blair and look forward to introducing him to Saint Mary Home and The McAuley in the coming months. We pray that he will find great joy and great value in his work in our Archdiocese.

Finally, it is my pleasure to share with you some of the wonderful gifts received by The Mercy Community as the year drew to a close. First, we are the very proud recipients of a \$75,000 grant from The Catholic Health East Heritage Fund to renovate several of the apartments and corridors within The Frances Warde Towers at Saint Mary Home. This area of the building is home to 97 individuals, including 21 retired Sisters of Mercy and 12 individuals transitioning from homelessness, and it represents the essence of our Mercy Mission. We are grateful that The Heritage Fund's administrators found it to be worthy of such generosity. The Mercy Community also received grants of \$5,000 and \$1,000 from the Farmington Bank Community Foundation and Berkshire Bank Foundation, respectively. These investments from philanthropic organizations – in addition to all those made by good friends like you who support our Annual Fund – signal a happy, healthy year ahead for our organization and for so many of those entrusted to our care.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "William J. Fiocchetta". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'F' and 'W'.

William J. Fiocchetta, President and CEO

A September to Remember

Mercy Week Provides Extraordinary Performances, Conversations, Commemorations

“The Sisters of Mercy are the face of the Church,” The Most Reverend Henry J. Mansell, Archbishop of Hartford said during his homily at the September 24 Mercy Day Liturgy.

Crediting the Sisters for their “skill, stamina and holiness,” Archbishop Mansell reminded the congregation: “We have roots. We are called to celebrate those roots.” With that, the Archbishop underscored the reason for The Mercy Community’s annual celebration of Mercy Week: taking time to reflect upon and give reverence to the heritage, charism and vision of the religious women who founded the Order, its Mission and ministries in health care, education, and social services around the globe.

On September 22, Mercy Week opened with colleagues taking part in the Alzheimer’s Association’s Hartford Walk to End Alzheimer’s. That evening, “Irish to the Last Drop” returned for a performance at Saint Mary Home. Under the accompaniment and musical direction of Don Benevides, the group of Tom Curtiss, Joe King and John and Ellen O’Shaughnessy brought back favorite Irish ballads, pub songs and sing-alongs in honor of Catherine McAuley’s homeland to the delight and hearty applause of the many residents and Sisters of Mercy who attended.

Sister Peggy Luby led a reflection on “The Gift of Mercy” September 23 in the Archbishop John F. Whealon Chapel of Our Lady of Mercy, and Sister Mary Ellen Murphy presented her



lecture “Mars and Beyond” at The McAuley September 26. Sister Peggy’s ministry included work as a Retreat/Spiritual Director; she remains active in this capacity now in residency at Saint Mary Home. Sister Mary Ellen most recently served as professor of Chemistry at the University of Saint Joseph; her scholarship and career included analysis of moon rocks brought back from the Apollo 11 lunar mission in 1969 and service as a NASA consultant for the Viking Lander on Mars and as a member of NASA’s Near Earth Asteroid Rendezvous team in her role as a visiting scientist in the Laboratory of Extraterrestrial Physics, Astrochemistry Branch, at Goddard Space Flight Center.

The Sound of New England Chorus, which rehearses each week in the Saint Mary Home Auditorium, contributed the gift of music to the Mercy Week Festivities. On Mercy Day, these singers and dancers brought in members of the public as well as residents of Saint Mary Home and The McAuley. “This was a first-class show!” one gentleman shouted as the chorus gratefully accepted a standing ovation. Irish step dancers from The Griffith Academy in Wethersfield, the flute and tuba duo Double Play, and strolling musicians bringing cheer to residents of the skilled nursing units at Saint Mary Home rounded out Mercy Week’s cultural offerings.

Following the Mercy Day Liturgy, Archbishop Mansell blessed and dedicated Saint Mary Home’s newest additions. Flanked by Foundation Officers Marion Barrak and Joseph Chaho and Foundation Trustee Dr. Robert Jeresaty, Archbishop Mansell named “The Maximilian E. and Marion O. Hoffman Foundation Entrance to Saint Mary Home.” Then, expressing gratitude to Murphy Family Giving for its generosity, Archbishop Mansell dedicated The Jane Murphy Garden and The Joan Bergman Garden, both of which represent the beautiful outdoor component of The Mercy Community’s growing initiative in palliative care.



Archbishop Mansell blesses the new entrance to Saint Mary Home joined by Bill Fiocchetta and (left to right) Joseph Chaho, Marion Barrak, and Dr. Robert Jeresaty from The Maximilian E. and Marion O. Hoffman Foundation, Inc.



(left to right): Bill Fiocchetta, Archbishop Mansell, Pat and Peter Murphy enjoy the newly dedicated Jane Murphy Garden.



After the blessing and dedication ceremonies, guests adjourned to the Saint Mary Home Auditorium for The President's Luncheon. "Each year, I look forward to sharing with you the 'state of The Mercy Community' at a gathering of our ministry's benefactors," Bill Fiocchetta told those gathered. "I cannot think of more perfect timing than to be given that opportunity on the anniversary of Catherine McAuley's founding of the House of Mercy in 1827. It is because of the Sisters of Mercy that we have a mission that compels us to respect and empower individuals, restore health, provide comfort, and witness compassion and healing to all, especially the elderly poor. And it is largely because of the Sisters' reputation for integrity, openness to people of all spiritual and faith traditions, and visionary leadership that we have been a success in providing high-quality health care since 1880 and high-quality retirement living since 1988." He went on to thank The Maximilian E. and Marion O. Hoffman Foundation, The Catholic Health East Heritage Fund, Hartford Foundation

for Public Giving, New Alliance Foundation, and Miss Margaret Sullivan for their support of The Gateway campaign, and Murphy Family Giving for its leadership gift to the campaign for palliative care at The Mercy Community.

Bill also queued up the premiere screening of the newest Living Library segments, featuring residents of The McAuley Colonel Wallace Conrath and Mrs. Margaret V. Tedone. Both videos are now available for viewing at <http://www.themercycommunity.org/TheLivingLibraryProject.aspx>. After their debut, Bill said: "These are the faces, the voices, and the story of The Mercy Community. I thank Wally Conrath and Margaret Tedone for being a part of the Living Library Project and for their contributions to our community. If they do not make the case for the fascinating individuals who benefit by their words and actions The McAuley, The Mercy Community and the world beyond our campus borders, I don't know who could."



Sister Maureen with "Irish to the Last Drop"



Sister Peggy Luby (at left) greets Sisters Janice May and Rosemary Ryan.

One day later, The McAuley marked its 25th Anniversary. During an elegant cocktail reception, Bill Fiocchetta said: “The heart of The McAuley is its residential population. There would be no McAuley without those of you who call it home. Each day, through your participation, feedback, and presence, you demonstrate how much you care about this community and how devoted you are to every aspect of its success.”

Bill acknowledged The McAuley’s three “pioneer residents” – Alma Collins, Elizabeth DeNoyon, and Anne Taylor– all of whom moved in when the doors first opened in September 1988. He then recognized the four “pioneer colleagues”: Pat Kaplan, Tam Ngo, Catherine Pistrutto, and Lionel Rosario, Sr. Following Bill’s presentation of gifts to these special individuals, Sister Maureen Reardon offered a blessing before dinner. “God of all creation,” she prayed, “Fill us with wonder and gratitude for the abundance of your blessings.”



Bill Fiocchetta, Archbishop Mansell, and David Harris, chair of The Mercy Community’s Board of Trustees, gather in The Joan Bergman Garden.



The Tradition of Giving Grows on Christmas Trees at The Mercy Community

During the Advent season, residents and colleagues of and visitors to Saint Mary Home and The McAuley are encouraged to donate personal care items and gently used winter outerwear to a collection taken up for women, men and children in need throughout greater Hartford. Baskets were located at the main entrances of both of The Mercy Community’s facilities from December 2-19.

Father Kelechi, interim chaplain for The Mercy Community, blessed the collected items at the National Homeless Persons’ Memorial Day Liturgy held in the Archbishop John F. Whealon Chapel of Our Lady of Mercy at

Saint Mary Home December 21. “We celebrate today that God is with us. We also celebrate and remember our homeless brothers and sisters on the streets who do not have enough,” Father Kelechi said. During his homily, Father quoted from the Book of Deuteronomy: “If one of your kindred is in need in any community in the land which the LORD, your God, is giving you, you shall not harden your heart nor close your hand against your kin who is in need. Instead, you shall freely open your hand and generously lend what suffices to meet that need... When you give, give generously and not with a stingy heart; for that, the LORD, your God, will bless you in all your works and undertakings. The land will never lack for needy persons; that is why I command you: ‘Open your hand freely to your poor and to your needy kin in your land.’”

Members of The McAuley’s transportation services team delivered several large baskets of soaps, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and warm clothing to Marshall House and Saint Elizabeth House – both in Hartford – December 23. “It brings all of us – including our own residents and clients, some of whom have been homeless themselves at some point in their lives – great joy to assist those receiving services from Marshall House and Saint Elizabeth House. It’s The Mercy Community’s Christmas spirit made manifest,” said Maureen M. Reardon, RSM, Ph.D., Senior Vice President and Chief Mission/ Compliance Officer.



Spotlight on our Stars

Seventy-one colleagues were honored with awards and a beautifully-prepared buffet dinner for their anniversaries of service at the 11th Annual Colleague Service Awards Ceremony on November 7. In addition, three more professionals received “Angel of Mercy” recognition for the way they uphold the Mission and Core Values of The Mercy Community as they go about their work.

Playing upon the event’s theme of “Celebrating Our Stars,” President and CEO Bill Fiocchetta said: “We come together this afternoon to ‘celebrate our stars.’ And stars you are! Each one of you shines your steady, brilliant light on our residents, clients, and community: guiding those we care for on their individual journeys, warming them with your compassion, brightening what can sometimes be long, difficult days. You are also our ‘stars’ in this sense: you tell the story of The Mercy Community. You may not appear on stage or screen...and you may not receive awards in front of hundreds of famous people, but you are in ‘the action scenes’ of life at Saint Mary Home and The McAuley every day. You are the ‘heroes’ for our residents, clients, and their families. It is my pleasure to make sure that you each have a chance to stand in the spotlight today and accept our thanks for your generosity in sharing your gifts and talents.”



FIVE-YEAR AWARD

Ashaki Anderson
Narrine Anderson
Shanique Bannister
Racquelee Bernard
Marcia Brown
Tomas Casul
Orenthia Channer
Bahati Christopher
Theresa Di Meo
Rosemarie Dixon
Lynn Donkor
Dianne Edwards
Leesa George
Julitte Grant
Claudette Jumpp Knott
Karen Landsberg
Sheryl Levy
Elizabeth Lipsman
Janice Lohneiss
Beverley McDaniel
Olive Ntege
Christina Panton
Kimberly Roberts
Nana Rockson
Evet Smith
Jacqueline Suares
Karen Tallis

10-YEAR AWARD

Dahlia Arango
David Bagot
Lorine Coombs
Rose Darko
Hope Daron
Orlando Daron
Magnus Duru
Marcia Harvey
Marcia Howell
Alordes Innocent
Marjorie Lewis
Samuel Morales
Alyssa Paradis
Yvonne Pinnock
Sharon Rose
Carvell Segree
Elaine Smikle
Yvonne Taylor
Charlene Thomas
Lorna Williams

15-YEAR AWARD

Lorna Cameron
Carrol Davis
Ana Gonzalez
Dianne Heron
Carol Martini
Ramona Perez
Naomi Shirley
Marcia Taylor
Marlene Webb
Oliver Wilson

20-YEAR AWARD

Patricia Blake
Mava Copeland
Mary Fahy, RSM
Amy Hatch

25-YEAR AWARD

Roslyn Benjamin
Lisa Brown
Hilton Bush
Barbara Gineyard
Tammy Luna
Gwendolyn Nelson
Lorrice Stewart

30-YEAR AWARD

John Wagner

45-YEAR AWARD

Gladys Jones

THE MERCY COMMUNITY'S ANGEL OF MERCY EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

*(Recognition for receiving 10 Angel of Mercy cards
and creating a "Culture of Caring Through Excellence.")*

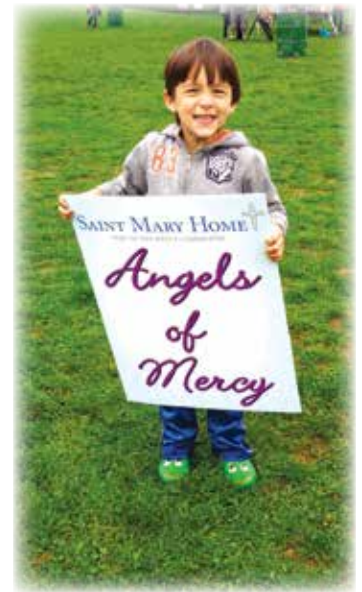
Vivia Campbell Valrie Gooden Paulette Hudson



Walking the Talk

Each year, colleagues from Saint Mary Home take part in the The Walk to End Alzheimer's, sponsored by the Connecticut Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. The Walk raises money for Alzheimer's disease care, support, and research. Each year, more than 650 communities across the nation, including Hartford, take part. On September 8, 2013, Saint Mary Home's "Angels of Mercy" raised more than \$4,000, and many team members brought family and friends to walk the route around Bushnell Park for the great cause.

Team captains Cassie Walker and Henry Gilchrist do much more than rally the troops to walk. Each month, they host an in-house fundraiser to raise money for the Alzheimer's Association. In 2013, Cassie and Henry planned and executed several events, including potluck and spaghetti and meatball lunches and bake sales, with proceeds benefitting the Association. They hosted a Chili Cook Off, and sold flowers, as well. They have plans for even more events during 2014. Cassie and Henry are passionate not only about their work as colleagues at Saint Mary Home, but also about the arrival of the day that a cure for Alzheimer's disease exists.



Four-year-old Grant Walker joined his mom, Therapeutic Recreation Director Cassie Walker, at The Walk.



Showing our Memory Care

At the November 17 Liturgy in the Archbishop John F. Whealon Chapel of Our Lady of Mercy, this beautiful banner made its debut. Lovingly crafted by Saint Mary Home colleagues Katherine Nowak, Theresa Di Meo, Cassie Walker, Eileen Cleary and a student intern, the banner honors residents living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia. During the Mass, Eileen Cleary and members of her family led the congregation in the annual Commemorative Candle Lighting Ceremony to remember and honor those who have been or will be affected by Alzheimer's disease or related illnesses. Sponsored on the national level by the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, The Mercy Community holds this ceremony each November in recognition of National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month.

Two Caregivers Well Known within the Alzheimer's/Dementia Special Care Community at Saint Mary Home Lauded

The Connecticut Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association held its 2013 Caregiver Awards Luncheon November 1 at the Village at Buckland Court in South Windsor, CT. There, **Theresa Di Meo**, recreation assistant at Saint Mary Home, received a Professional Caregiver Award, and **Sister Catherine "Katie" Perrone** received a Family Caregiver Award. Here, both ladies are congratulated by Patty O'Brian, North Central Regional Director for the Connecticut Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.





Take a Trinity College Course at The McAuley This Spring!

By popular demand, The Academy of Lifelong Learning will offer another minicourse at The McAuley – 275 Steele Road, West Hartford – this spring. Residents of The McAuley and members of the public are welcome to enroll. Those who register for “Changing Your Mind” will meet over four Fridays from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. in The McAuley Auditorium: April 11, April 18, May 2 and May 9. To register, please visit lifelonglearning@trincoll.edu or call 860.297.2125.

Changing Your Mind

Your brain is responsible for everything you experience and everything that you will ever be able to do. In this course, we will explore the kinds of activities that improve brain function and those that do not. We will consider research that suggests ways you might improve your ability to pay attention, to remember things, and to solve problems. We will explore whether there are differences in the brain cells, brain structure, and cognition between the sexes and if so, what the implications are. We will read about things that impair brain function and make it harder to think well, such as stress and multitasking. Looking at the biological mechanisms responsible for these changes in the brain, we will consider which of these changes are short-lived and which might last a lifetime.

Sarah A. Raskin, Ph.D. is a Board Certified Clinical Neuropsychologist and Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience at Trinity College. She graduated from Johns Hopkins with a B.A. in Behavioral Biology and from the City University of New York Graduate Center with a Ph.D. in Neuropsychology. She has published numerous articles investigating cognitive changes in neurological disorders and cognitive rehabilitation of these disorders, including traumatic brain injury. She co-authored the Memory for Intentions Test (MIST) published by Psychological Assessment Resources. She is co-author with Catherine Mateer of *Neuropsychological Management of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury*, published by Oxford University Press and is the editor of *Neuroplasticity and Rehabilitation*, published by Guilford Press.

Hitting the Airwaves from Coast to Coast

The Mercy Community joined The Noah Webster House & West Hartford Historical Society in sponsoring the October 5 tapings of two broadcasts of National Public Radio's quiz show “Says You!” at the University of Saint Joseph. The shows, later aired on NPR stations throughout the U.S., featured host, writer and producer Richard Sher and his touring team of six cast members/contestants. Lexicographer Peter Sokolowski and The Mercy Community's Director of Community Relations, Christine Looby, served as scorekeepers. Billed by NPR as “a public radio game show of bluff and bluster, words and whimsy,” the shows included rounds in “Definitions and Derivations,” “What's the Difference?,” “Cryptic Puns,” and bluffing challenges. The University of Saint Joseph's Bruyette Athenaeum was the venue for the shows, drawing a very enthusiastic audience of faithful “Says You!” listeners. For more information on the show or to get tickets to a future live taping, visit www.saysyou.net.

“Powerful Combination” Yields Powerful Conversation



On October 11, The Mercy Community partnered with the University of Hartford's Presidents' College to host Connecticut's premiere public screening of the documentary film *I Remember Better When I Paint*. The film, narrated by actress Olivia de Havilland, demonstrates the positive impact of art and other creative therapies on people with Alzheimer's disease.

In his welcome, Dr. Humphrey Tonkin, director of The Presidents' College, said that he had long wanted to address issues in aging – and their implications on the greater community – through the forum of The Presidents' College. Bill Fiocchetta agreed that the partnership that could “bridge a discussion of issues in

aging with a conversation that would incorporate the arts and academia” would create “a powerful combination.” Nearly 80 people attended: the largest audience to date for a community roundtable discussion sponsored by The Mercy Community.

One of the film's two directors, Berna Huebner, introduced *I Remember Better When I Paint*, sharing her personal journey. Mrs. Huebner's mother, Hilda Gorenstein, a painter known during her career as “Hilgos,” was afflicted with Alzheimer's disease. One day, according to Mrs. Huebner: “I asked her if perhaps she might want to paint again. Much to my surprise, she replied ‘Oh, yes! I remember better when I paint.’” From there, thanks to a



Bill Fiocchetta, Berna Huebner, and Dr. Humphrey Tonkin



The Mercy Community proudly displayed some of its residents' works at The University of Hartford so that guests could see firsthand the results of art therapy programs.



network of support consisting of Mrs. Gorenstein's physician, skilled nursing facility, and a group of students from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, "Hilgos" had a rather profound and prolific return to painting until her death in 1998. For Mrs. Huebner, the way art seemed to reawaken expression and connection in her mother not only gave her comfort, but also sparked in her a passion that continues to this day.

In 1999, Berna Huebner founded The Hilgos Foundation in her mother's memory. Its mission is to support and encourage the ongoing process of artistic creation with people who have memory problems and/or Alzheimer's and who require assistance in creating art that is meaningful and enriching. It provides grants to art students who work with Alzheimer's patients and served as co-producer of *I Remember Better When I Paint*. "I want to thank The Mercy Community and the University of Hartford for bringing attention to the film and to the fact that the creative arts can change the quality of life for people living with Alzheimer's disease," Mrs. Huebner said.

After the screening, Dr. Tonkin moderated a panel consisting of Jan Albetski, director of assisted living services for The McAuley;

Catherine Certo, professor of physical therapy at the University of Hartford, John Feierabend, professor of music education at The Hartt School; and Dr. Elisa Gil-Pires, The Mercy Community's Medical Director. They had a spirited discussion about the clinical definition of Alzheimer's disease, about the areas of the brain stimulated by the arts and other activities that have no reliance on short-term memory, and about engaging art therapists and arts organizations in programs for those living with Alzheimer's disease and related memory care issues.

The group then recessed to the University's Harry Jack Gray Center, where Mrs. Huebner and the panelists were able to enjoy a dynamic question-and-answer session with the audience. "I am just thrilled by the success of this event," Bill Fiocchetta said. "It demonstrates the community's appetite for education and action on topics involving the health and wellness of our seniors, and I am looking forward to our next venture with our friends at the University of Hartford."

See our "Save the Date" section on the back cover for preliminary information about a spring event at the University of Hartford pertaining to Parkinson's Disease.



What's Developing at The Mercy Community

Have you considered

making a gift in honor of the Sisters of Mercy or a loved one who has lived or received services from The Mercy Community? With a little education and preparation, those who wish to establish a legacy now can ensure steadiness in their own financial portfolio while enhancing the lives of people in need. To learn more about opportunities for making a charitable bequest, gift annuity, or another way of advancing our Mercy Mission, please contact Sister Maureen Reardon, Senior Vice President and Chief Mission/Compliance Officer at 860.570.8339 or mreardon@mchct.org. On behalf of all the women and men entrusted to our care, we thank you for your generosity of spirit in exploring planned giving.

The PALLIATIVE CARE PROGRAM

AT THE MCAULEY | A Place of Healing. A Place of Mercy. A Place of Grace.

When people discover that their serious chronic diseases cannot be cured or elect to forego curative treatment, they may decide to seek palliative care, shifting their goals from “curing” to “comforting.” The Mercy Community is developing a formal program in palliative care. In 2014, we will open up a dedicated palliative care unit at Saint Mary Home. There, caregivers will do everything possible to reduce the severity of symptoms and empower residents physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually – an approach that embodies our emphasis on treating “the whole person.” We are excited to offer one of Connecticut’s most robust Palliative Care Programs. To realize its implementation beyond the pilot unit and truly make Saint Mary Home and The McAuley palliative care providers on the whole, we need your help. Even as we pursue funding from foundations and corporations, we are welcoming gifts toward Palliative Care at The Mercy Community. To learn more about our vision for this program or gift opportunities at whatever level is comfortable for you or your family, please contact Sister Maureen Reardon at 860.570.8339 or mreardon@mchct.org.



Join “the Circle” at the Club this June!

Now in its 14th year, the **Circle of Mercy Golf Outing** returns to Hartford Golf Club **Monday, June 9, 2014.**

We welcome you to be with us for a great day of golf among friends on one of New England’s finest courses and an exquisite tournament dinner in the Club’s Main Dining Room.

Proceeds from the Outing directly benefit our people and programs at Saint Mary Home and The McAuley.



Save the Date!

To register or become a corporate sponsor, please visit www.TheMercyCommunity.org or “The Mercy Community” on Facebook after March 3, or call 860.570.8305.

The **MERCY COMMUNITY**
THE MCAULEY | SAINT MARY HOME

Poetry Curve

you never come face-to-face with God

you never come face-to-face with God
instantly
you get a lot of glimpses of Him
that you have to put together
with the other glimpses
you have caught
on your morning walk

the smile on the face
of a young girl walking her dog

a blue heron standing motionless
in the shallows of the pond

the sun gradually
taking control of the sky

a clump of trees
minding their own business

birds getting out
of one another's way

clouds following the same
route they took yesterday

when your walk is done
you can put all the glimpses together
and get the face of God.

--The Reverend Henry C. Frascadore
Conversations after Sunset, www.BeyondtheWeepingWillowTree.org



Now Playing...



Please be sure to visit The Mercy Community's website (www.TheMercyCommunity.org) and to click on "Living Library" on the top of the home page. We added two new features this past fall: profiles of Wally Conrath and Margaret V. Tedone, both residents of The McAuley. Special thanks to Marcy Cain and Bob Kagan from Cain Communications and Michelle Yue and John Paul Grego from Mascola//Group for making these beautiful productions possible. The Living Library's collection is expanding to highlight many of the fascinating people who have chosen to make The Mercy Community home.

People Like Us. They Really Like Us!

Our social media network is steadily growing, and we would love to include you in it. We regularly post breaking news, senior health tips, and fun facts in this spot, so please visit our home page at www.TheMercyCommunity.org and click on the "Facebook" icon in the upper right hand corner.

The Mercy Community loves being "liked!"



Mercy Community Achievements



Eileen Cleary, director of dementia education and programming at Saint Mary Home, has been appointed to the State of Connecticut Alzheimer's disease and Dementia Task Force. Connecticut State House Majority Leader Joe Aresimowicz (D- 30th Assembly District- Berlin, Southington) appointed Eileen as a representative from an organization that advocates for persons with Alzheimer's disease and dementia who are living in long-term care facilities. In June 2013, the Connecticut Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association helped to see through the successful passage of House Bill 5979 that establishes a Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia to analyze and make recommendations to improve services and care provided to Connecticut citizens with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. Eileen joins 22 other members of the Task Force who will be charged with establishing and developing a comprehensive state plan on Alzheimer's disease. This plan will in part be focused on boosting public awareness; improving care management; increasing early detection and diagnosis; improving training and workforce development; furthering research; and improving public safety for those with Alzheimer's and related dementia.



William J. Fiocchetta, President and CEO of The Mercy Community, has been elected to a one-year term as Vice Chair for LeadingAge Connecticut. This membership organization represents more than 130 non-for-profit mission driven provider organizations serving elderly and disabled individuals across the continuum of care, including nursing homes, residential care homes, housing for the elderly, Continuing Care Retirement Communities, adult day centers, home care agencies and assisted living.



Christine M. Looby, director of community relations for The Mercy Community, received the Rotary Club of West Hartford's "Rotarian of the Year" award for 2013 at the Club's annual meeting. A co-chair of the organization's publicity committee, Christine also coordinated its holiday party for West Hartford's Hillcrest Avenue Neighborhood Outreach Center's schoolchildren at The Children's Museum and scripted the "Vines of March" fundraising event at the Mandell Jewish Community Center.



Philip Murray, assistant administrator at Saint Mary Home, attended the LeadingAge Connecticut Leadership Academy in 2013, and characterizes his experience as both "intense and rewarding." He found the session content to be extremely useful in his position with Saint Mary Home. "I was introduced to some amazing industry leaders and was able to gain valuable networking partners." Phil said. "At the summation of the fellowship, we essentially were given all of the tools necessary to apply the core concepts in our various roles. I am very grateful I was given this incredible opportunity."



David Stevens, director of operations at The McAuley, has been accepted into LeadingAge Connecticut's 2014 Leadership Academy. The Academy offers a year-long transformational leadership development experience based on the Academy's core values of authenticity, stewardship and integrity. The curriculum will emphasize the importance of teamwork, organizational change transition and relationship building.



Steven Vargo, director of financial services for The Mercy Community, was appointed Regional Treasurer for New England of the Healthcare Financial Management Association – Connecticut Chapter for 2013 and 2014. Steve is a past president (2012) of the CT Chapter, and has been an active member since 1982. This national organization based in Chicago serves more than 40,000 members. Its general mission is to assemble financial colleagues in the health care industry to discuss industry-related news, trends, legislature and policy, in an effort to teach young professionals about the business climate, and to help all members stay up-to-date on changes within the field. Steve also serves on the Board of Directors and performs with the Connecticut Hurricanes Drum and Bugle Corps.



Melissa Bogatz,
Volunteer Services
Coordinator, started
at Saint Mary Home
on April 1, 2013.

Before joining The Mercy Community, Melissa served for 10 years as Volunteer Services Coordinator at Hospital for Special Care, a long-term and acute care hospital in New Britain.

Melissa has loved getting to know Saint Mary Home's dedicated volunteers. She is excited to work with them to recruit a new generation of volunteers for Art Therapy and Mass Escort programs. Melissa seeks good-hearted volunteers who believe in The Mercy Community's Mission and wish to give back. A successful volunteer at Saint Mary Home is comfortable working in a health care setting. Interested volunteers may contact Melissa at 860.570.8314 or mbogatz@mchct.org.



Lindsay Cowles
has served as The
McAuley's Dining
Services Operations
Manager since May

2013. She was Dining Room Manager for a year and a half before receiving this promotion. She holds a bachelor's degree in Nutrition and Dietetics from Saint Joseph College and is a Registered Dietician.

Lindsay is inspired by the opportunity to identify a problem, create a plan to make change, execute it and observe successful results. It motivates her to want to do more, and in turn, inspire her colleagues. She is eager and thankful to learn every day from her team and their years of experience. She also appreciates the many ways residents show kindness or make her laugh when she needs it the most.



Carl Saraceni
began his role as
Multi-Services
General Manager
at The Mercy

Community in June 2013. Previously, Carl held the position of District Manager in Sodexo's Hospital Division, where he covered facilities in both Connecticut and New York. He has held a variety of operational leadership roles over the course of his career.

As Multi-Services General Manager, Carl oversees all of The Mercy Community's support service departments: Dining, Housekeeping, Maintenance, Laundry and Facilities. He is committed to working with his team to create a comfortable, clean environment for residents, clients, colleagues and visitors in a fiscally responsible way. Carl says that he is excited for "lots of exciting projects on the horizon" at The Mercy Community in the coming months and years.

Have We Met Yet?

Q&A with our Director of Pastoral Care

How long have you been with The Mercy Community?

I began working for Saint Mary Home in July 2013. As a professional chaplain, I have served Baystate Medical Center, Kindred Parkview Hospital for Long Term Acute Care, Baystate Mary Lane Hospital and Hawthorne Adult Day Health. Prior to chaplaincy, I spent almost 20 years in Information Technology and have also taught science at the high school and college levels. It feels as though all my previous experiences were building blocks to Pastoral Care.

In a community where our residents, clients and colleagues represent diverse faith groups, can you describe your approach to Pastoral Care?

I think of Saint Mary Home as a multi-faith congregation. We represent 27 different faiths and spiritualities and we respect and support one another as a single community. Residents affiliated with a religious tradition are mostly Christian, Jewish or Muslim. Saint Mary Home offers daily Mass, weekly Rosary, and sacraments on request for our Roman Catholic population. We also provide other Christian services at least twice monthly, Jewish prayer three times a month, an interfaith service once a month, and a Companionship program to support residents through the challenges of their life's journey.

My hope is to continue to increase the diversity of our programs. I'd like to include other spiritual offerings such as Scripture Study, Yoga and Meditation. However, my greatest challenge is making these opportunities accessible to all our residents. Saint Mary Home's relationship with Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center's Clinical Pastoral Education Program is, and will continue to be, a tremendous asset to our efforts. I look forward to seeing our goal to fruition: ensuring that every member of our community feels the presence of the One throughout Saint Mary Home.

What excites you most about your position?

I love to listen to our residents' life stories; they have accomplished so much in their lifetimes! They have the wisdom, joy and some sadness that accompany lives well-lived.





Pioneer resident Anne Taylor



A toast to 25



Director of Resident Services Joke Trzaskos and Olive Rudolph share stories and smiles during the cocktail reception.



Pioneer resident Betty DeNoyon celebrates with Bill Fiocchetta.



Cheers to The McAuley



Harpist S.K. Thomas makes beautiful music at the anniversary cocktail reception.

CHE Trinity Health Names its New Chief Executive Officer



Richard J. Gilfillan, M.D., former director of the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI), was appointed president and chief executive officer of Catholic Health East (CHE) Trinity Health in October and began his work at CHE Trinity Health headquarters in Livonia, Michigan November 18.

Dr. Gilfillan has been a leader in U.S. health care for more than 20 years, building successful organizations in the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors to deliver better outcomes for people and communities. As CMMI's first director, he launched the Center in 2010 and worked quickly with payers and providers to develop innovative models for improving patient care and reducing costs. As chief executive at Geisinger Health Plan, he led the design of new payment systems and medical care initiatives that increased the quality of care for patients.

"Rick's leadership and many accomplishments across the spectrum of care, including his years as a practicing physician and as a successful industry executive, assure us that he has the experience, compassion and values to lead our ministry and Catholic health care to a strong future," said CHE Trinity Health Board of Directors Chair Dr. Melanie Dreher, Ph.D., RN. "In the midst of a transforming industry, Rick brings a national presence and comprehension to guide our ministry as we pursue new opportunities, tackle new challenges and fulfill our mission."

"CHE Trinity Health has a strong legacy of delivering exceptional care throughout its ministry. The Board is committed to building on this success and making our ministry a national leader in transforming U.S. health care into a high-value care system that improves the lives of the people and communities we serve. I am honored to be selected and thrilled to have the opportunity to work with CHE Trinity Health's dedicated colleagues and regional health ministries to accomplish this mission," Dr. Gilfillan said.

"We are excited Rick will join the CHE Trinity Health team, and we will work together to ensure a smooth transition," said CHE Trinity Health interim CEO Judith M. Persichilli, R.N., B.S.N., M.A. "The Board reviewed many strong candidates for this job, and Rick stood out because of his leadership, track record for innovation and shared commitment to the mission and values of our ministry."

Prior to his appointment at CMMI, Dr. Gilfillan was president and CEO of Geisinger Health Plan and executive vice president of insurance operations for Geisinger Health System, a large integrated health system in Pennsylvania. Previously, he was the senior vice president for national network management of Coventry Health Care. He also held earlier executive positions at Independence Blue Cross.

Dr. Gilfillan began his career as a family medicine physician and later became a medical director and a chief medical officer. He earned his undergraduate and medical degrees from Georgetown University and an M.B.A. from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

CHE Trinity Health is the second-largest Catholic health care delivery system in the nation. It serves people and communities in 20 states from coast to coast with 82 hospitals, 88 continuing care facilities and home health and hospice programs that provide more than 2.3 million visits annually. It was formed in May 2013, when Trinity Health and Catholic Health East completed their consolidation to strengthen their shared mission, increase excellence in care and advance transformative efforts with their unified voice. With annual operating revenues of about \$13.3 billion and assets over \$19 billion, the new organization returns more than \$800 million to its communities annually in the form of charity care and other community benefit programs. CHE Trinity Health employs nearly 86,000 people, including more than 330 full-time colleagues at The Mercy Community. Committed to those who are poor and underserved in its communities, CHE Trinity Health is known for its focus on the country's aging population. As a single, unified ministry, the organization is the innovator of Senior Emergency Departments, the largest not-for-profit provider of home health care services — ranked by number of visits — in the nation, as well as the nation's leading provider of PACE (Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly) based on the number of available programs. For more information, visit either www.trinity-health.org, www.che.org or www.newhealthministry.org.

2021 Albany Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06117

SAINT MARY HOME
THE McAULEY

Thursday, January 30 / 10:45 – 11:30 a.m.
Saint Mary Home Auditorium

Hartford Symphony Orchestra Woodwind Quartet

Monday, February 3, March 3 and April 7 / 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
The McAuley Auditorium

“Mark Twain Among the Indians” Lecture Series

Professor Kerry Driscoll of the University of Saint Joseph will speak on her forthcoming book examining the evolution of Mark Twain's view of American Indians over the course of his nearly fifty year-long career. Series is open to the public.

Wednesday, March 5 – Sunday, April 20

Lent 2014 Programs Please visit www.TheMercyCommunity.org in late February for a complete listing of Lent 2014 programs, including Triduum Liturgical Services.

Friday, April 4/9:30 a.m./ Wilde Auditorium at the University of Hartford
Mark your calendar for an event presented by The Mercy Community and The Presidents' College at the University of Hartford dealing with the impact of Parkinson's Disease on individuals, families, and communities. Details will be available at www.TheMercyCommunity.org in March; those who wish to attend may call 860.768.4495 or register at <http://library.hartford.edu/presidentscollege/registration/> this spring.

Tuesday, April 22 / 10:45 – 11:30 a.m.

Saint Mary Home Auditorium

Hartford Symphony Piacere String Quartet

Monday, June 9 / 9:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Hartford Golf Club

Fourteenth Annual Circle of Mercy Golf Outing

For more information about registration or sponsorships, contact Christine M. Looby at 860.570.8305 or clooby@mchct.org.

Who We Are...

Mercy Community Health (MCH) was founded by the Sisters of Mercy and is a member of Catholic Health East Trinity Health. MCH is a faith-based organization that promotes wellness, embraces diversity, and enhances quality of life. As a health care provider and in partnership with the communities we serve, MCH respects and empowers individuals, restores health, provides comfort, and witnesses compassion and healing to all, especially the elderly poor. †

Please visit our website at
www.TheMercyCommunity.org



Accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities—Continuing Care Accreditation Commission (CARF—CCAC).

Saint Mary Home provides skilled nursing, rehabilitation, dementia, subacute, residential and adult day center.

- Admissions, Ellen Sanders-Nirenstein, RN (860-570-8269)
- Adult Day Center/Frances Warde Towers Apartments: Maryann Loveland (860-570-8234)

The McAuley is a Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) which promotes and fosters an independent lifestyle within a life care setting. The McAuley offers an Assisted Living Program for those residents who require more assistance with daily living.

- Marketing Directors Pat Kaplan (860-920-6304) or Janice Lohneiss (860-920-6346)

Office of Development For information on how to make charitable gifts to Mercy Community Health or any of its ministries, contact Sister Maureen Reardon, Senior Vice President and Chief Mission/Compliance Officer (860-570-8339).

Please write to us at our mailing address if you wish to have your name removed from the list of those to receive the Mercy Community's future fundraising requests.

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