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January/February 2011 Volume 41 No. 5

A message from AFF's President

Happy New Year to all! We've turned the corner on another year and are moving full speed ahead as we approach our first major event of 2011.

On February 11 we will have our annual Blood Drive at the Medical Center. This is a quick way for everyone to donate a little time for a very worthy cause. Our committee has been working on ways to add fun and surprises into your day for those who stop by to donate. Please mark your calendars and let us know if you would like to help that day.

Of course, plans continue to move forward with the annual Spring Luncheon and Fashion Show on April 6, 2011. If you would like to be involved in any way, we can certainly use your help. Please let me know or contact Kelly Hollenbeak (khollenbeak@verizon.net) or Jodi Firestone (jodifirestone@arcus.net) if you'd like to volunteer.

Margaret Cyran AFF President MHCyran@comcast.net 580-5809 (cell)

Paint a Picture of Hope for Valentine's Day



Donate Life – Donate Blood
Mark Your Calendar and Save the Date:
Friday, February 11
7am to 6 pm

We are very excited that AFF and Central PA Blood Bank have partnered with the Donor Center at Penn State Hershey Med Center to sponsor our Valentine Blood Drive this year. The date is Friday, February 11 from 7 am to 6 pm. We are expanding our visibility and setting up tables for registration at many different sites on the medical center campus with our primary location at the main entrance. The mobile this year will be parked in the emergency department parking lot. We need your help! Please contact LaDora Field at Ifield@psu.edu or 531- 1468 to volunteer for a 2-4 hour shift. Our goal is to collect 100 units of blood, the amount of blood the medical center needs to operate per day.

We sincerely thank you in advance for your help! ~ Judy Dillon and LaDora Field

More ways to help our Blood Drive:

We're looking for some gift baskets, perhaps with a Valentine's theme, to raffle for everyone who participates. Would you be able to make and donate one? If so, please contact LaDora Field.

Also, do you have a story to share of someone in your family, or yourself, receiving blood at the medical center? If you'd be willing to share with the public relations department at the med center, again please contact LaDora Field at Ifield@psu.edu or 579-3806.

Getting To Know You lunch

In January we will meet at the Ice House in Palmyra (appropriate for this month!). Join us at noon **Tuesday, January 18**. The Ice House is in Palmyra at 312 E. Main Street. There is some parking in the back. Please contact Sue Demers if you can attend: srdhum@yahoo.com or 566-3533.

Our February lunch will be at the Chocolate Avenue Grill at 114 W. Chocolate Avenue in Hershey. Jaque Repke will be organizing this so please let her know if you'll be coming: jrepke@comcast.net or 533-5563. The date is **Tuesday, February15** also at noon. Consider this an extra celebration of Valentine's Day!

HOUSECALL

Bridge

The Bridge gang will be meeting at Mary Sue Hanks' home on **Monday**, **February 7** from 10-1PM for Instructional Bridge with Sandra. If you can come, please let Mary Sue know at marhnks@aol.com or 566-5506.

In February, we will celebrate Valentine's Day belatedly on **Wednesday**, **February 16**, with a "Have a Heart" Brunch and play date at Jaque Repke's from 10-1PM. All players are asked to bring a sweet or savory treat, and a food or cash donation for the Food Bank.

If you want to join the fun, contact Jaque at jrepke@comcast.net or 533-5563.

Membership Update

Please welcome these new AFF members: Judith Michel Denise Ogarro

And welcome back: Harriet Isom Eleanor Schneider Wendy Palmer

We are now over 200 strong!

The decorations are all down and the holiday



music has been put away. But the warmth generated by the AFF **Peace Tree** remains. The holiday season was kicked off with the 2010 Peace Tree Celebration November 19. Friends and family, old and new came to the lobby of the Medical Center to celebrate.

A record crowd in the new and improved location enjoyed the performances. Sonya Johnson, who was visiting her patient husband, was so moved by the experience that she contributed her voice to the program with a couple "off the cuff" songs. The spirit of community continued as the spectators enjoyed a fabulous selection of sandwiches and sweets as a conclusion to the festivities.

This year's celebration memorializing and honoring our loved ones raised almost \$5,600. A big thank you to AFF co-chairs Marilou Cockroft and Marietta Mierski, and others who helped make the event possible: Daniel O'Donnell, Events Specialist, Department of Guest Services; Nicole Kazmar, Office of Marketing and Communications; Ellen Kyzer and Robin McCabe, Office of University Development and Alumni Relations. And a special note of gratitude to our Peace Tree Committee and to all our performers.

Book Group

You're welcome to join our book group, which meets at 12:30 on the second Tuesday of the month at a different member's house. In February, we'll be discussing *Instead of a Letter* by Diana Athill, and in March, *The Unlikely Disciple* by Kevin Roose.

Please call Carol Schneidereit at 220-1764 for locations.

Knitting Group

The knitting group will meet **Tuesday February 8** at 9:30 at Trish Good's house at 1160 Stoney Run Road. Please let Trish know if you can attend: tgood49@comcast.net or 723-0784. Everyone is welcome.

Palliative Care

The next meeting is on Thursday January 13, at noon at the Cocoa Beanery. Save the Date: The annual Kalenak Golf Tournament benefiting HMC Palliative Care, will take place on Friday, May 27, at the Hershey Country Club. For more information, contact Behjat Noori at behjatnoori@comcast.net.

Ideas for *Housecall*? Email Janette Murray: bosseaumurray@yahoo.com or Patty Gelenberg: patty.gelenberg@gmail.com