



Transplant Times

February/March 2017

A newsletter of the Transplant Awareness Organization of Greater Rochester

www.tao-rochester.org | 1.888.664.1463

Inside this issue

TAO Holiday Recognition Dinner 2

Introducing our members 3

Community events 4

Support Group meetings 4

Holiday gift wrap recap 6

Transplant Anniversaries 7

Membership Meetings

Guest Speakers / Topic

February 20
 - **Marla Pellitere**
 Mindfulness & Meditation

March 21
 - **Jeffrey Alexis, MD**
 Advances in Heart Transplantation

TAO Meets

3rd Monday of the Month
6:30 P.M.
 Christ Episcopal Church
 Fellowship Room
 36 South Main Street
 Pittsford, NY

A Message from the President

The holidays are over, a new year is underway and Spring is in the future. We still have a few hard months ahead before the flowers bloom, so do your best to stay well.

For me the year started with a bang; the death of a friend and another friend facing another cancer diagnosis after battling breast cancer last year. It really sets you back and makes you think about this time of life. Finally able to retire, collect social security and do what you want and when you want and yet having to deal with end of life issues.

Going through my husband's transplant, you would think I had dealt with end of life issues, but I was just dealing with *his* illness, one day at a time, one foot in front of the other. It was so unknown and overwhelming that long term didn't come into play. I'm sure that other caregivers can relate.

I've learned how short life really is and that you have to live each moment and take each day as it



comes. Mostly, I realize it's important to take time out for yourself and do what you need to do to recharge and care for your own wellness. Don't wait until the snow melts or Spring comes. Do what you want to do, don't put it off. Say "I love you" and don't spend your energy on being angry or holding grudges. Every day that we live is a gift, so make the most of it!

Debbie Gendrzewski



Visit, like our Facebook Page
www.facebook.com/TAOofRochester

TAO Holiday Recognition Dinner

TAO held its annual Holiday Recognition Dinner on Saturday, January 14, at Joey B's at Brickstone.

Those attending enjoyed a lovely dinner followed by TAO President Debbie Yendrzeski recognizing TAO Board Members, the Nguyen family - Thanh, Kathy, Jade and Novalie - for their ongoing support of TAO by volunteering with the web site, gift wrapping and newsletter mailings. Patricia Stewart was recognized for her efforts with collecting pop tabs and continuing her support of TAO.

Thank you all! We couldn't do it without you!



Introducing our members

Larry Billings. Larry and his wife, Deborah, are Rochester residents. Larry grew up in Mississippi, but has adjusted very well to our northern climate.

He received a liver transplant at Strong Memorial Hospital in May of 2015 and has done well in his recovery. He currently volunteers with the Friends of Strong, supporting and communicating with new recipients, potential candidates, and their families. He is very interested in hearing about the experiences of other transplant recipients and in becoming familiarized with TAO and its mission.

Larry retired from employment in Kodak's health imaging business, Care Stream, and plans to continue to pursue one of his hobbies: travel. He commented that there are many "things I want to do and will do!"

He has been fortunate to have connected with his donor family and is extremely grateful for their sacrifice.

Shawn Ferguson. Shawn has been a heart recipient candidate for nine months and awaits the "call for transplantation" as he resides in the Cardiac Unit at Strong Memorial Hospital. He currently has an artificial heart and undergoes rigorous care and preparation that occurs during the pre-transplantation period.

Shawn is part of a family manufacturing business in his hometown of Baldwinsville, NY. He is extremely proud of his wife, Sheree, who is the "love of my life" and gives him "amazing" support throughout his journey towards health. He feels fortunate to have not only the love of his wife, but that of his three children and other family members as well.

Shawn clearly pronounces his strong Christian faith and reliance on God to get him and his family through these difficult times. Shawn continues to keep a positive attitude as he awaits his future heart transplant.

Loren Taurisano. Loren lives in Utica, NY with his wife, Mary.

Before receiving his transplant, he worked for the Mohawk Valley Water Authority and as a part-time photographer for the city of Utica Fire Department. He received a liver at Strong Memorial Hospital in August of 2016.

Loren's doctor related that his transplant story is very unique. His course of illness was similar, in some respects, to other transplant candidates; however, similarities ended when after transplant he discovered this donor was the niece of a close friend. Even though he was not aware preoperatively that he had been a "perfect match" with this individual's donated organ, he was fortunate to find out soon after transplant that she was the donor. Not all recipients are able to connect with their donor, but Loren was blessed by this very special situation.

Loren's community held a benefit in his honor and they raised a substantial amount of money for his medical expenses. Loren decided to donate half the proceeds from the benefit to a trust fund for the children of the deceased donor. He continues a relationship with the donor family and is forever indebted to them for their beautiful gift of life.

Loren extols the virtues of the transplant nurses and is extremely grateful for the compassionate and professional care he received from them.



Our newest members to TAO

Robin Amarena
Paula DelSanto

community events Save the Date . . .

February 10

Donate Life Night with the Rochester Amerks sponsored by:
Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network

April 23

16th Annual Rochester River Run
For details: www.riverrun.urmc.edu

United Network for Organ Sharing

Candidates listed as of 1/15/2017

98,718	Kidney
14,455	Liver
4,017	Heart
1,769	Kidney/Pancreas
1,395	Lung
945	Pancreas
275	Intestine
46	Heart/Lung

118,895 TOTAL
www.unos.org

Totals may be less than sums due to patients in multiple categories

TAO www.tao-rochester.org

G Act as a support group for transplant candidates, recipients & their families.
O Provide education and information on transplantation issues that surround it.
A Promote organ/tissue donation awareness.
L All potential transplant recipients, candidates, family and friends are welcome. Meetings held monthly & include programs of interest to the transplant community.
S

transplant Support Group Meetings

"Open Airways" Lung Gathering Group

Thursday, February 16 @ 12 noon

Jeremiah's - Rt. 250, Fairport Nine Mile Point Rd., Penfield

Thursday, March @ 12 noon

Hong Wah Restaurant, 1802 Penfield Road, Penfield

Heart Transplant/VAD Support Group*

Thursday, February 9 @ 6:00 pm

Anna Sorensen, NP

Dermatology topics for all patients

Thursday, March 9 @ 6:30 pm

Mark Nickels, MD

Transplant and VAD Psychiatrist

* All Heart Transplant/VAD Meetings are held at the 7th floor conference room near the 7-3400 Corridor unless otherwise indicated.

amazon.com[®]

Amazon shoppers can help support TAO by using Smile.Amazon.com to make their purchases.

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

Go to smile.amazon.com and follow the instructions to designate Transplant Awareness Organization as your choice. **Thank you!**

Celebrating 15 Year Anniversary



The University of Rochester Medicine's Heart Transplant Program celebrated its 15 year anniversary and 200th heart transplant on October 22, 2016 at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center.

A highlight of the event was a photo of the recipients that were present.



Board of Directors & Officers

President

Debbie Yendrzeski

Vice President

Gretchen Collins

Treasurer

Karen Gledhill

Secretary

Sue Muto

Membership

Norman Breen

Jeffrey Alexis, MD

Linda Barnard

Erin Collins

Matt Felo

Karen Guarino

Bonnie Haefner

Judy Munn

Janice Odenbach

Karen Porterfield, LMSW

Our Sympathies

To the **Verde Family**

on the death of Giulio Verde

To **Delores Metzger**

on the death of her husband, Leonard

To the family of **Bonnie Patten**

To the family of **Lois Murray**

Wishes of Wellness

Our healing thoughts and prayers go out to:

Richard Forbes

Tom Barbera

Bernice Eblovi

Bonnie Haefner

Benjamin Smeenck

Cindy DeShane

Chuck Lundeen



Prescription Disposal

Do you have unwanted or expired prescription drugs? If so, stop by the Webster Town Hall, 1000 Ridge Rd., Webster, NY. There is a box in the lower level where you can deposit any expired or unwanted drugs.

Please don't flush your drugs!



**Flu Season is here!
Get Vaccinated!**

Holiday Gift Wrapping

On Sunday, December 18, TAO members wrapped purchases at Barnes and Nobles in Webster. It was our first year at that location and it proved to be rewarding. "I can't get over how many people are affected by organ donation" said Michael Yendrzski, adding "another woman who lost her 15 year old son to a drunk driver yet made the gift of donation came up to us and had her book wrapped. And, another woman came up to the table and told us about her brother who waited for a heart—both within the first two hours of us being there."

Karen Gledhill and her sister Debbie Scott met a woman that had a kidney transplant 26 years ago and her son was transplanted three years ago.

Kathy Nguyen along with her daughters Jade and Novalie enjoyed wrapping again this year.

The gift wrapping helps to bring awareness to the community and provides an opportunity to talk about organ and tissue donation. It also serves as a fundraiser for TAO. Thanks to all!

TAO Donates to Harbor House

TAO "adopted" two days at the Harbor House of Rochester in memory of Frank Imburgia Sr. and Jim Fyfe. Both were former TAO board members and heart recipients.

The donation covers the expenses of running the House for two days for families that are away from home while their loved one receives care at Strong Memorial Hospital. Harbor House provides a "home away from home" and is within walking distance of the hospital.

Joan Malley, managing director, writes "This would only be a dream if it weren't for caring, concerned people like you. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We wish you and all you hold dear, good health and happiness in the coming year."



March is National Eye Donor Month. During this time we remember and honor those who have given the "gift of sight" through eye/cornea donation and we thank all donor families for supporting the donation decision.

To learn more about eye/cornea donation visit www.lionseyebankrochester.org



JOIN OUR BOARD

Do you want to get more involved with the transplant community? Do you have some extra time? TAO is looking for board members. The board meets every other month for one hour prior to the general membership meeting.

If you have an interest or want to learn more call 1-888-664-1463. TAO holds monthly meetings from September to June on the 3rd Monday of the month from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.

Meetings offer time for social interaction with other members, along with a scheduled speaker at many of the meetings. Refreshments are provided and guests are welcome. The January meeting is reserved for a Holiday Party and the June meeting for a Picnic.

Transplant Times

Submission Deadline

For April/ May issue:
March 7, 2017

Articles /ideas email to:
auggieday@aol.com or send by mail to:
TAO, PO Box 23552, Rochester, NY 14692-3552

2017 Membership Renewal

It's that time of year again – time to renew your TAO membership! Thank you for your past support and for renewing now so we can continue to have the impact you've come to expect from TAO.

Thank you for your continued commitment to TAO. We are counting on you to renew your membership by filling out the form on the back of this newsletter.

Additionally, please use the form to indicate if you wish to continue receiving the newsletter.

Norm Breen
Membership Chair

Transplant Anniversaries

James Carlineo Jr.	Liver	February	2006
Wayne Dickinson	Liver	February	1997
Mark Kleege	Liver	February	2014
Louis Mascaro	Kidney	February	1979
Larry Mortellaro	Liver	February	2014
Shirley Newman	Kidney	February	2008
Joseph Nolan	Kidney	February	2006
Aisha O'Mally	Heart	February	2004
Greg Post	Kidney	February	2008
Marsi Rohde	Kidney	February	2013
Lana Way	Kidney	February	2008
John Wood	Liver	February	2009
Cynthia Boyer-Green	Kidney	March	1996
Bob Brahaney	Liver	March	2015
Rita Callaghan	Liver	March	2001
Jana Currie	Lungs (2)	March	2008
Bethany Gee	Heart	March	2002
Karen Gledhill	Kidney	March	1983
Robert Hadsell	Liver	March	1997
Thomas Louer	Liver	March	2004
Michael J. Postilli	Kidney	March	2015
Elaine Schultz	Liver	March	2015
Jan Sharp	Kidney	March	2005
Lea Sobieraski	Liver	March	2013
Ralph M. Toscano Jr.	Cornea	March	1989
Dennis Wittman	Liver	March	2004

CONTRIBUTIONS

We are grateful to those individuals and organizations that generously contribute to TAO.

Jerry & Lia Stephenson
Richard Forbes
David Johnson
Anonymous

In memory of Dick Tuites

Shirley Tuites

In memory of Rick Alphonse & Leonardo Clement

Bonnie Haefner



NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
ROCHESTER, NY
PERMIT #1411

Transplant Awareness Organization
of Greater Rochester
PO Box 23552
Rochester, NY 14692-3552

Return Service Requested

If you have a **change of address**,
or you **would like to be removed**
from our mailing list, please send
an e-mail to:
Subscriptions@tao-rochester.org
Or a written request to:
TAO
PO Box 23552
Rochester, NY
14692-3552

***It's time to renew your membership for 2017!
Help support the TAO mission***



TAO / Rochester Membership Application

No one is denied membership because of financial considerations

- DUES:**
- New Member
 - Renewal
 - \$20 Family / Individual
 - \$100 Business / Organization
 - unable to make dues payment at this time

Donations to help our organization are always welcome, and are tax-deductible. Make checks payable to:
TAO of Greater Rochester, PO Box 23552, Rochester, NY, 14692-3552.

Name (please print) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ E-mail _____

- Candidate
- Recipient
- Family Member
- Donor Family
- Friend
- Professional
- Business / Organization

Candidate/Recipient information: # of Transplants _____ Hospital _____

Date(s) _____ Organ(s)/Tissue(s) _____

Check here if you do not wish your transplant anniversary date to be published in the *Transplant Times*.