

Hartford Heartline

Volume XXXVIII- Issue 9 - December, 2014

The Mended Hearts, Inc.

Chartered 1977 - Greater Hartford - Chapter 9

"It's Great to be Alive - and to help Others"

About Mended Hearts

Mended Hearts is a national non-profit organization made up of and serving people with heart disease and their loved ones. Mended Hearts welcomes anyone who is interested in learning more about heart disease.

Supported by a national office, 280 local chapters actively serve across the United States and Canada. The network is made up of heart patients, family members, caregivers and health care professionals who provide information and support to recovering patients and their families during hospital visits, by telephone, through group meetings and via the Internet.

OFFICERS - 2013-2015

President:

John A. Dunn

15 Strawberry Hill Windsor, CT 06095 860-688-5489

Email: jjhmdunn@msn.com

Vice-President:

Priscilla Soucy

98 Highview Street
East Hartford, CT 06108
860-289-7422
Secretary

_

Robert Hoffman

25 Lovelace Drive West Hartford, CT 06117 860-232-8417

Email: vrome@att.net

Treasurer:

Steve Livingston

501 Dzen Way

South Windsor, CT 06074

860-644-4250

Email: stevelivingston@cox.net

Aligned with the American College of Cardiology

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Mended Hearts Chapter 9 will be excited to see all of you at our upcoming meetings. Both patients and caregivers, and interested parties are welcome to attend, FREE, with no commitment to join our organization. We have interesting speakers and refreshments.

Please join us for the upcoming meeting at:

Goodwin College 245 Riverside Drive East Hartford, CT

December 10, 2014 - 6:45 PM

Our meetings will be held in the Community Room on the Main Floor.

All are welcome to attend!!

NOTICE:

FOR LOCATION AND DRIVING DIRECTIONS See Page 6

December 10, 2014 Meeting - 6:45 p.m.

Speaker: - Dr. Bruce Liang, M.D., Chief, Division of Cardiology at Pat and

Jim Calhoun Cardiology Center, UConn Health Center

Topic: "It is the year 2020...what would be the

Approach Be to a Cardiac Patient?"

Refreshments: John Klimczak

Wishing all of our members and their families, and all our readers, the Happiest of Holidays!!!

January 21, 2015 Meeting - 6:45 p.m.

Speaker: - To Be Announced Topic: To Be Announced

Refreshments: To Be Announced

February 18, 2015 Meeting - 6:45 p.m.

Speaker: - To Be Announced Topic: To Be Announced

Refreshments: To Be Announced

March 18, 2015 Meeting - 6:45 p.m.

Speaker: - To Be Announced Topic: To Be Announced

Refreshments: To Be Announced

President's Message



My Monthly Greetings...
to the Members, Caregivers,
and Friends of
Mended Hearts, Chapter 9
Greater Hartford, Connecticut

This month I would like to alert everyone to the Election of 2015-2017 National Board of Directors for Mended Hearts, Inc. Our National bylaws stipulate that the officers are elected by one vote per Chapter for each office. Therefore, the majority vote by the Chapter Members for each office, will be how the Chapter's One vote for that office is submitted.

Our January Chapter Meeting will be designated as a "Special Election Meeting". The winter issue of "Heartbeat" magazine will include the profiles of all those running for offices, for all members to review. Our Special Elections Meeting will be at our Chapter Meeting On January 21, 2015.

The Winter issue of "Heartbeat" is expected to arrive in your postal mail, during the last week Of December.

Anyone who is unable to attend our January 21st Chapter Meeting should request a ballot from our Chapter President, John Dunn. The completed ballot must be returned to John Dunn by postal mail prior to the Special Election Meeting date so that the received ballots may be included with the tally of votes during the meeting.

Any questions? Please contact John Dunn, President by phone 860-688-5489 or Priscilla Soucy, Assistant Regional Director by phone 860-289-7422 or e-mail priscillaanns@att.net.

Wishing everyone a "Healthy and Happy Holiday Season". Truly, It's Great to be Alive--and to help Others!

Heartfully,

John

CHAIRPERSONS - 2013-2015

Visiting Chairman - Hartford Hospital:

John Dunn 860-688-5489

Visiting Chairman - St. Francis Hospital:

Bob Hoffman 860-232-8417

Visiting Trainer - All Hospitals:

Priscilla Soucy 860-289-7422

Program Co-Chairman:

Ben Goldfarb 860-523-5761

Program Co-Chairman:

Priscilla Soucy 860-289-7422

Official Greeter:

Dolly Goldfarb 860-523-5761

Corresponding Secretary:

Carolyn Kolwicz 860-872-0296

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Enjoy the Newsletter in color on our website!

http://mendedheartsCT.org

Here's a link to the National Mended Hearts Website: http://mendedhearts.org

Health News

Nurse Anesthetists Work Throughout The Medical World

Most of us are aware of the increasing role of nurse practitioners working with private doctors. But, few know there are over 48,000 certified nurse anesthetists providing anesthesia care.

National Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) Week originated in 1999 and is recognized annually the last full week of January. The credential CRNA has existed since 1956. The 2015 theme is: CRNAs: The future of Anesthesia Care Today.

CNRAs administer more than 34 million anesthetics to patients in the United States annually. They are the primary providers of anesthesia in rural areas of the country.

There is no reason to be concerned if your doctor or hospital uses the services of a CRNA. The results of several studies have proven there is no difference in the quality of care they provide compared to their physician counterparts.

You will find CRNAs in critical care hospitals, obstetrical and surgical suites, ambulatory care centers and the of private offices doctors. podiatrists. dentists. ophthalmologists, plastic surgeons, pain management specialists, veterans' hospitals, and U.S. military facilities.

Over 40 percent of CRNAs are men, although they comprise less than 10 percent of nurses in general. Nurse anesthetists have bachelor's and master's degrees, must maintain their state license with at least 40 hours continuina education and documented anesthesia practice annually, and must news that your doctors are reading - health news prove they are devoid of any conditions that could that matters to you. adversely affect their judgment and skills.

As of the end of 2014, 114 accredited programs were utilized in over 2,500 clinical facilities, 30 of which award a doctoral degree.

Source: Pages

Can A Bad Marriage Lead To A Broken Heart?

The answer to a new study is yes.

Researchers analyzed 5 years' worth of data from about 1.200 married men and women. All were between the ages of 57 and 85 at the start.

The participants answered survey questions about marital quality, underwent lab tests to assess cardiovascular health and provided medical information about heart attacks, strokes and hypertension.

The results showed that a bad marriage is more harmful to heart health than a good marriage is beneficial, and the effect of marital quality on cardiovascular risk becomes much stronger at older ages.

According to the lead investigator, stress from a marriage may cause more intense cardiovascular events overtime because of the declining immune function and increasing fraility that develop in old age. She says these findings suggest that marriage counseling is just as important at older ages, even for couples married 40 or 50 years.

The researchers also found that marital quality has a bigger effect on women's heart health than it does on men's, possibly because women tend to internalize negative feelings more.

substantial I'm Dr. Cindy Haines of HealthDay TV, with the

.Source: Medline Plus, NIH (National Institutes of Health)

Health News

CELIAC DISEASE

Celiac disease is an immune reaction to eating gluten, a protein found in wheat, barley and rye,.

If you have celiac disease, eating gluten triggers an immune response in your small intestine. Over time, this reaction produces inflammation that damages the small intestine's lining and prevents absorption of some nutrients (malabsorption.)

The intestinal damage can cause weight loss, bloating and sometimes diarrhea. Eventually, your brain, nervous system, bones, liver and other organs can be deprived of vital nourishment.

In children, malabsorption can affect growth and development. The intestinal irritation can cause stomach pain, especially after eating.

There's no cure for celiac disease—but following a strict gluten-free diet can help manage symptoms and promote intestinal healing.

Source: Mayo Clinic

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR PILL LOOKS DIFFERENT

Say your pill was always a tan color, but your refill bottle is full of blue pills. Often patients just stop taking the medication, which is a bad idea. In fact, according to Johns Hopkins University, in some cases it could be life threatening.

Researchers looked at patients who began taking a generic heart medicine after having a heart attack. Among those whose drugs remained at the same dosage but changed appearance, 66 percent of patients stopped taking it when the pills changed shape, and 34 percent stopped taking it when the pill was a different color.

Pharmacies sometimes change their drug suppliers, so pills can have a different color or shape each time they do.

If your prescription looks different when you refill it, call the pharmacy to verify that it's the correct medication.

You can also find several Websites that will help you identify the pill. Simply search for "identify pill." Source: Pages

ER VISITS ON THE RISE, STUDY REPORTS

About 96 percent of patients need medical care within two hours

The number of emergency department visits in the United States rose from about 130 million in 2010 to a record 136 million in 2011, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The findings also showed that fewer people were going to ERs with non-urgent medical needs: 96 percent of patients were identified as needing medical care within two hours of arriving at the ER. In 2010, that number was 92 percent, according to the research.

Sixty percent of patients arrived at the ER after normal business hours (after 5 p.m. on weekdays) One-third of visits were for patients on either end of the age spectrum-younger than 15 or older than 65, the researchers found.

Almost 30 percent of visits were for injuries. The highest injury fates were among patients 75 and older, the study noted.

The report also finds that there are large numbers of admitted patients who wait long times for inpatient beds," Dr. Michael Gerardi, president of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), said in an ACEP news release.

Nearly two-thirds of patients waited two or more hours for beds in 2011, and nearly three-quarters of hospitals continued to board patients even when the emergency department was critically overloaded. Hospitals must move admitted patients out of the emergency department faster to make room for the increasing number of people coming." he said.

It's believed that there will be about 140 million ER visits in 2014, according to the ACEP.

"The growth in patient demand aligns with what emergency physicians have been seeing and predicting: demand is going to increase," Gerardi said.

"Given that our nation's population is aging, and emergency departments have a critical role as the front line of responding to disasters and infectious disease outbreaks in America, such as what we saw with Ebola, we need to prepare for increased numbers of patients," he added.

Despite increasing use of ERs, most hospitals had not expanded their ER's as of 2011 and had no plans to expand them in the following two years, according to Gerardi.

"Emergency departments are essential to every community and must have adequate resources," he said. "They continue to be under severe stress and face soaring demands, despite the efficiency of caring for more than 136 million of the sickest patients each year using only 4 percent of the nation's health care dollar." This report is more evidence that we are going to need more resources, not less, in the future."

Source: American College of Emergency Physicians. news release, Nov. 20, 2014. MedlinePlus, NIH (National Institutes of Health)

General Interest Information

MENDED HEARTS 2015 CONFERENCE

Orlando, Florida

June 24 thru June 27, 2015

Our Conference will be held at the Buena Vista Palace Hotel & Spa and has been selected for our stay.

The Hotel is located directly across the street from Downtown Disney. The hotel offers free transportation daily to Disney Theme Parks (Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Animal Kingdom, Hollywood studio, Typhoon Lagoon and Blizzard Beach, as well as nightly transportation to Downtown Disney Marketplace and Pleasure Island after 6 pm.

We are obtaining transportation to and from the airport (no additional cost to attendees.) For those driving to Orlando, we were able to negotiate free self-parking.

The Conference Committee has begun planning another great conference filled with educational speakers and will focus primarily on chapter and member development topics, with a few national medical professionals.

Mark your calendar so you can begin planning for next year!

(Source: Marvin Keyser, National Conference Chairman)

IMPORTANT: Chapter 9 OFFICERS FOR 2015-2017

We have a new slate of officers for the upcoming two years.

President Vice President Treasurer Secretary Walter Kovaciny John Dunn Steve Livingston Bob Hoffman

(Source: Pages)

Our nominating committee chairman, Dolly Goldfarb will conduct the election at our upcoming December meeting.

WHAT IS A STEM CELL?

During early life and growth, stem cells change into many different cell types in the body-muscle, red blood, and brain cells, for example

They also are part of the body's repair system. When stem cells divide, each new call could be a muscle cell or just a new stem cell.

"QUESTION OF THE MONTH" NOVEMBER

A question was posed by our Visiting Trainer, Priscilla Soucy, to the attendees at the meeting, "Did you go through depression after having your cardiac surgery or procedure?" If you are a caregiver did you also experience depression after your spouse or significant other that had surgery or a cardiac event.

We had many answers and a good portion of those present at the meeting did experience some form of depression, like feeling down, fear, and worrying about how to handle the patient when they came home from the hospital. It was interesting to hear their experiences.

FOR RENTAL CARS, ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS COST MORE

State highway authorities are replacing tollbooths with electronic payment system that collect fees using windshield transponders. The International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Administration notes that cash is being phased out.

Rental car companies don't absorb the tolls. The offer renters a flat daily fee to lease a transponder, or pay administrative fees of as much as \$25 for each unpaid toll, plus anything owed to the state. In California, a car renter said the company charged her \$30 each for tolls that cost \$2.74.

Many customers complain about the cost of loaner transponders. The cost \$20 a day or more. Last year, Hertz agreed to pay \$11 million to settle a class-action suit filed by customers who said they didn't know they would be charged a daily fee whether or not they drove through any tolls.

Toll operators now say the problem could be solved by letting travelers bring their own transponders with them.

Congress is giving toll road operators until 2016 to make the various electronic systems work with each other so drivers can use their devices nationwide. Florida's SunPass has taken steps to establish reciprocity with E-Z Pass.

(Source: Pages)

General Interest Information

NOTICE TO VISITORS

When you acquire names of patients, caregivers, or others that want to receive our newsletter, please e-mail Bob Lincoln at e-mail address: pine3@comcast.net

Bob is doing the 3-month mailing list for us and does a great job keeping them updated.

NEW READERS

Newly visited patients, their caregivers, and others who have requested our newsletter will receive copies for three months. It is our way of keeping in touch with you. Hope and encouragement are offered by members who are living proof that people with heart disease can continue to lead full and productive lives. We hope as you recover you will be able to attend our meetings and want to become a member, or as family members, and join us in helping others.

STOP!!

Please don't throw this newsletter away. When you have finished reading it, why not pass it along to others. You could drop it off in your doctor's office or give it to a friend or relative. This way more people will get the Mended Hearts message, and know who and what we are.

CAUTION!

Hartford Heartline, is written for the education and information of the members of Mended Hearts and all those concerned with heart hearth. It is **not** intended as a substitute for the advice of your physician. Always check with your physician or cardiologist regarding any questions you may have about your condition.

MANDY HEART

Mandy Hart, our SPECIALpiggy bank, has a total of \$185.29. We have a good start towards next year's donation to Camp Madden, let's keep it up. Thank You!!!

ALL HOSPITAL VISITORS

If you visit patients from Enfield, Suffield, Stafford Springs, or towns bordering the Springfield, MA area, please tell them we are starting a satellite at Bay State Medical Center and it might be closer for them.

(See Springfield Contact Info on Page 7)

MEETING LOCATION IN DECEMBER

Our meeting location which will be at:

Goodwin College - Community Room 245 Riverside Drive East Hartford, CT October 15, 2014 – 6:45 PM

Note: Using above address in your GPS gets you to correct building.

Parking is available at the front entrance to the building and also on the left side of the street there is a well lit parking lot.

Directions: (From 1-84 East, in Hartford)

Take Route 2 East

Take Exit 5 to Willow St / Riverside Drive Don't go onto Willow St – Stay to the right onto Riverside Drive

Go almost to the end of the road and Goodwin College (the main building will be on the right.)

Or: Go to Main St., East Hartford...heading South. Willow Street is opposite the main entrance to Pratt & Whitney. Monroe Mufflers is on corner.

Turn right.

Turn left at the end of Willow Street onto Riverside Drive. **Go almost to the end of the road** and Goodwin College (the main building) will be on the right.

	SURGIVERSARIES	
DECEMBER - 201	14	YEARS

	,
Benjamin Goldfarb	24
Bob Hoffman.	17
Charles Woolsey.	17
Carol Farr.	10
Elsie Strait.	7
John Dunn.	6
David Miller.	5
Joseph Peters	4

Dolly Goldfarb (omitted in Nov)

If you find your name has been omitted or has the incorrect year of your cardiac event please notify Priscilla Soucy.

A NEW MEMBERS

John & Ann Marie Olsen East Hartland, CT

Welcome!!!

Fun Stuff & Info

LIGHTER SIDE OF DAILY LIFE

At a local coffee bar, a young woman was expounding on her idea of the perfect mate to some of her friends, "The man I marry must be a shining light amongst company. He must be musical. Tell jokes. Sing. And stay home at night!

An old granny overheard and spoke up, "Honey, if that's all you want, get a TV.

Source: Thank you to Chapter 119, Newport News, VA

SIGNS OF OUR TIMES

- * In a New York restaurant: "Customers who consider our waitresses uncivil ought to see the manager."
- * In the offices of a loan company: "Ask about our plans for owning your home."
- * At a number of military bases: "Restricted to unauthorized personnel."
- * On a display of "I love you only" Valentine cards: "Now available in multi-packs."
- * In the window of an appliance store: "Don't kill your wife. Let our washing machine do the dirty work."

(Source: Pages)

SPRINGFIELD SATELLITE CHAPTER

Our Springfield, MA, Satellite Chapter is coming along nicely. Their meetings take place at Baystate Medical Center Cardiac Rehab. at 3300 Main St., Springfield, MA on the 1_{st} floor - Community Room at 7:00 PM.

They have the enthusiasm to get started and make this a chapter in the future.

They welcome anyone interested in heart health or had a heart procedure.

Mended Hearts has a hospital visiting program where visitors see heart patients pre and post-op. When there are enough members, we will start the visiting program at Baystate. Bryan Hagberg is the coordinator and his Dad is also helping and a real advocate for heart health. You can call Bryan at 413-579-5126.

Come to one of their meetings the 1st Monday of the month.

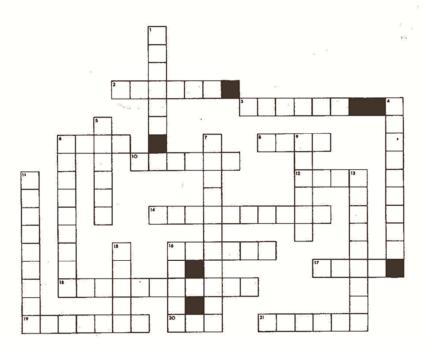
GENERAL DONATIONS

Donations may be made to Mended Hearts, Inc. in memory of a deceased friend, family, or member. Are you celebrating a special occasion such as a birthday, or anniversary? Chapter 9 welcomes your tax deductible contribution. All donations will be acknowledged by mail and in our monthly newsletter. Please make checks payable to:

Mended Hearts, Inc. Chapter 9 ... and mail to:

Steve Livingston, Treasurer 501 Dzen Way South Windsor, CT 06074

YOUR HEART AND HOW IT WORKS CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS:

- The valve between the left atrium and the left ventricle
- 3. The heart is classified as a _
- Blood vessel which carries blood to the heart
- 8. The heart is a little larger than your
- 10. ____ regulate the flow of blood through the heart
- 12. One function of the heart is to _ blood to the lungs
- The tough, muscular wall of the heart

- 16. Upper chamber of the heart
- 17. From the right side of the heart blood goes to the ____
- 18. Lining of the heart
- 19. Waste gas: carbon ____
- 20. Warning of a heart attack: pain may radiate down the ____.
- 21. Blood vessel which carries blood from the heart

DOWN:

- The valve between the left ventricle and the aorta
- 4. The valve between the right

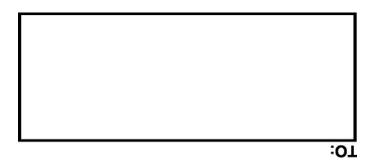
- ventricle and the pulmonary artery
- 5. The heart pumps blood to each body ____
- 6. Lower chamber of the heart
- 7. Fiber-like bag surrounding the heart
- Wall which divides heart cavity down the middle
- The valve between the right atrium and the right ventricle
- The artery/vein connecting lungs and heart
- is pumped through the body to nourish all of the tissues
- Great trunk artery which receives blood from the left ventricle

The Mended Hearts, Inc. National Office Phone: (888) 432 - 7899

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Member Information (please print or type)				
Name (Mr./Mrs./Ms)		Chapter 9 _Member-At-Large		
Address (line 1)		Phone ()		
Address (line 2)		Alt Phone ()		
City	State 2	Zip DOBRetired: Yes No		
Email Address _O y		Occupation		
Family member (must reside at same address): Preferred Contact: Phone Email N				
(Mr./Mrs./Ms)	DOB _	Email Address		
May we contact you regarding local chapter opportunities?				
Medical Information/Demographics (Optional - No application is denied based on medical information, age or race.)				
Name of Heart Patient (1)		Name of Heart Patient (2)		
Date of Surgery/Treatment		Date of Surgery/Treatment		
Type of Surgery/Treatment		Type of Surgery/Treatment		
Aneurysm Transplant	Valve Transcath ICD (Defibrillator R-VAD/L-VAD	Aneurysm		
Many chapter newsletters include surgery/treatment anniversaries of members. Please indicate here if you		Many chapter newsletters include surgery/treatment anniversaries of members. Please indicate here if you		
are agreeable to having your name published		are agreeable to having your name published in this way.		
Y e S N o Signature		☐ Y €☐ No Signature		
National Membership Dues: Includes subscription to HEARTBEAT and one insignia pin for an individual or two pins for a family membership (must reside in same household). Select type of membership and include chapter dues (unless you wish to become a member-at-large). National dues are tax deductible less \$10.00; Chapter and Lifetime Dues are 100% tax deductible. National Dues Within United States				
Or if joining as Members-At-Large, send to: The Mended Hearts, Inc. Mended Hearts, Inc Chapter 9 Mail to: Steep Livingston, Treasurer				

National Office 8150 N. Central Expwy, M2248 Dallas, TX 75206



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LHE WENDED HEVBLR' INC'

98 Highview Street East Hartford, CT 06108

THANKS TO HARTFORD HOSPITAL FOR THE MAILING OF THIS NEWSLETTER

OBJECTIVES OF MENDED HEARTS, INC.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS ORGANIZATION IS TO OFFER HOPE, SUPPORT, AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO HEART DISEASE PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES AND TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:

- A. To visit, with physician approval, and to offer hope, encouragement and support to heart disease patients and their families.
- B. To distribute information of specific educational value to members of Mended Hearts, Inc. and to heart disease patients and their families.
- C. To establish and maintain a program of assistance to physicians, nurses, medical professionals, and health care organizations in their work with heart disease patients and their families.
- D. To cooperate with other organizations in education and research activities pertaining to heart disease.
- E. To establish and assist established heart disease rehabilitaion programs for members and their families.
- F. To plan and conduct suitable programs of social and educational interest for members and for heart patients and their families.

THANKS TO ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL FOR THE PRINTING OF THIS NEWSLETTER