



# THE VOLUNTEER'S VOICE

Volume 18 Issue 4 Oct. 2024

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Co Editor and Content Coordinator: Barbara Eves

Staff: Peter Richardson, Ken Leitner



GREETINGS FROM  
MICHAEL

Hello Everyone,

It has been a pleasure to meet many of you over the past two months since I began my role as Volunteer Coordinator here at DRMC. Although the summer program for our Volunteens was brief, we were fortunate to have some dedicate their time this summer. Several of them plan to continue

volunteering into the fall. As we approach the fall semester, I will be actively recruiting students from

Cathedral City High School, as well as other high schools in the area, to join our Volunteen Program.

If you know of a department that is in need of volunteers during weekends or evenings, please do not hesitate to reach out—I am more than happy to assist in meeting those needs. I am also looking for more volunteers who can fill the slots needed in every department. Again, if you are interested or know of someone who might be interested, please let me know. Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to every one of you who volunteers. Your dedication means a lot to us.

I can be reached at: [Michael.saldana@tenethealth.com](mailto:Michael.saldana@tenethealth.com) or 760-323-6278

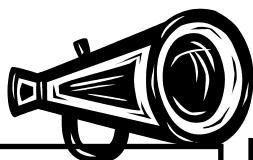


RON'S MESSAGE

We are back from an exceptionally hot summer break and there are many exciting developments happening and planned for the Auxiliary. On the business front, the Gift Shop has a new Point of Sale (POS) system which is a significant improvement. With this new system we will be able to offer the same payment options (credit/debit/employee account) at all vendor sales which we could not do in the past.

The BAKE SALE will be on Tuesday, November 26, just in time for Thanksgiving. If you are able to contribute any baked goods...sweet and/or savory...please contact Linda Sue Rosefsky at [soos@dc.rr.com](mailto:soos@dc.rr.com) or

Rick Gooch at [rick.gooch@frontier.com](mailto:rick.gooch@frontier.com). Also, if any of you have a relationship with a bakery, grocery store or restaurant, would you please reach out to them for a contribution. (As we are a 501c3 organization, it is a donation and a letter of thanks with our tax ID is available to give to them plus they will receive a public "thank you" in our newsletter which is also available on our web site.) This year we will be able to accept credit and/or debit cards which will make your purchasing so much easier! Our annual VOLUNTEER HOLIDAY LUNCHEON, hosted by the DRMC Auxiliary, will be held on Wednesday, December 18 at the Hyatt. Save the date. Details about time, meals, parking, etc. will follow. If you have a relationship with any local merchants, stores, restaurants, etc., please consider asking for donations for "door prizes". Finally, as the new president of the Auxiliary, I would like to invite anyone interested in serving on the Auxiliary Board to reach out to me at [admin@desertauxiliary.org](mailto:admin@desertauxiliary.org). We need talented and energetic people to join our dedicated team. We meet the second Monday of the month and are open for visitors to attend.



### ATTENTION AUXILIARY MEMBERS

Hello Auxiliary supporters and friends. We recently discovered that your membership checks were misdirected and have just resurfaced and will be filed. Our apologies for the confusion and inconvenience this may have caused you.

Thank you for your continued support!

Ron Callahan

Auxiliary President



### COMEDY CORNER

- I thought the dryer made my clothes shrink. Turns out it was the refrigerator!
- My doctor asked if anyone in my family suffered from mental illness. I said, "No, we all seem to enjoy it!"
- Just once I would like a username and password prompt to say, "close enough"!
- Never laugh at your spouse's choices. Remember, you are one of them!
- Losing weight doesn't seem to be working for me, so from now on I'm going to concentrate on getting taller!
- Camping: Where you spend a small fortune to live like a homeless person!
- I came. I saw. I forgot what I was doing. Retraced my steps. Got lost on the way back. Now I have no idea what's going on!



Oct. 2	Rosh Hashanah begins
Oct. 11	Yom Kippur begins
Oct. 14	Columbus Day
Oct. 14	Indigenous People Day
Oct. 17	Succoth begins
Oct. 31	Halloween
Nov. 1	Diwali
Nov. 3	Daylight Savings Time ends
Nov. 5	Election Day
Nov. 11	Veterans Day
<b>Nov. 26</b>	<b>Bake Sale</b>
Nov. 28	Thanksgiving
Nov. 29	Native American Day
Dec. 2	Day of the Dead
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve
Dec. 25	Christmas
Dec. 25	First Night of Chanukah
Dec. 26	Kwansa
Dec. 31	New Year's Eve

### IN MEMORIAM

Wood Livingston

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to Ernest Sussman. August 1, 2024 marked his 42nd anniversary as a volunteer at DRMC. He began as a favor to a friend to help out for a short time. He has been the volunteer coordinator of the Radiology Department since then. Kudos to Ernest and a big thank you and Happy Anniversary.



## SEEN AROUND THE HOSPITAL



**PATRICIA RAMIREZ**  
**VOLUNTEER**

Patricia Ramirez was born and raised in Santiago, Chili. She is the middle child of nine—two boys and seven girls. After graduating high school, she worked as an International Telephone Operator in Santiago for ten years. During those years she met a young man named Jorge, who traveled between Argentina and Chili for business. They fell in love and have been married for 43 years. Jorge relocated to Santiago where he bought a small meat market business. In 1983, they left Santiago and moved to Palm Springs where Jorge was employed at the Springs Country Club in the Food Service Department. Patricia became a stay-at-home mom to raise their three boys. In 2022, she became a volunteer at DRMC and has been working in the Betty Hale Gift Shop since then. She says she finds the Gift Shop “perfect for her” as she very much enjoys working with the many customers—visitors, staff and other volunteers all of whom like working with her, also. In her free time she enjoys spending time with her two grandchildren, a boy and a girl. In addition, she also enjoys reading and listening to music. At one time her dream was to become a pediatrician, but she is content to be just who and where she is.

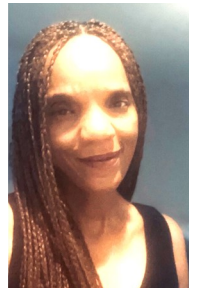
By Ken Leitner



Debra Aaron was born in Las Vegas, Nevada. She is the middle sibling of six sisters and three brothers. Her family

moved to Palm Springs when she was three years old. After graduating from Palm Springs High School, she entered into the field of banking where she remained for eight years working at various banks as a teller and New Accounts Representative. One day, during her lunch break, she saw a want ad for a Receptionist at Desert Comprehensive Center. At that time the Cancer Center was located in the basement at DRMC and they were not affiliated with each other. She applied for the open position and was hired. That was 33 years ago! Subsequently, Comprehensive Cancer Center (CCC) became a part of DRMC and now has a separate building where Debra works. She schedules radiation appointments and handles insurance issues.

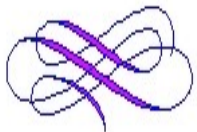
Debra has two daughters, one son and four grandchildren. She is happy that they all live in California. In her spare time she enjoys hiking, dancing and, most importantly, her grandchildren. Her dream had been to become a fashion stylist.



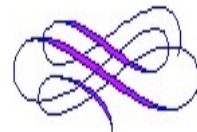
**DEBRA AARON**  
**SCHEDULER RADIATION**  
**ONCOLOGY**

By Ken Leitner





## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



It was definitely a hot SUMMER TIME and very busy for the Chaplaincy. Because so many volunteers, including the Chaplains, go on vacation, snowbirding to cooler places or just take some time off, I rearranged days and hours for those who were here and needed some time off. Even with our skeleton crew we managed to cover our bases and meet our commitments. The good news is that our snow birds, vacationers and those just needing a bit of time off have returned AND we have two new Chaplains who are in the process to begin their Chaplaincy work soon. And we have one more gentleman who is interested in coming aboard. Remember, if you come in contact with a patient, family member or staff member who needs a chaplain, call the operator who will contact a chaplain who will come to meet their needs. If you are interested in becoming a Chaplain and/or you know someone who is interested,, please let me know or our Volunteer Coordinator, Michael Saldana.

[rsmith6427@att.net](mailto:rsmith6427@att.net)/[michael.saldana@tenethealth.com](mailto:michael.saldana@tenethealth.com)

Roch Smith, Lead Chaplain



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## GIFT SHOP UPDATE

It's holiday season! Halloween items are on display with lots of new items just waiting for you to purchase them for your Halloween festivities. Thanksgiving decorations are available and Christmas gifts and decorations are also in stock. Come in, check out all the new displays and enjoy your "one stop shopping" venue. Of course, our regular items are always available with new merchandise arriving frequently. WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS! If you would like to join our team and/or if you know someone who is looking for a fun thing to do to fill a few hours during the week, please contact me at 760-323-6240, stop in the Gift Shop or contact Volunteer Coordinator, Michael Saldana at [michael.saldana@tenethealth.com](mailto:michael.saldana@tenethealth.com).

Eddie Maeda, Gift Manager



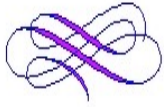
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## THOUGHT FOR TODAY

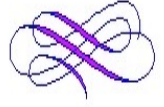
What sunshine is to flowers, smiles are to humanity. These are but trifles, to be sure, but scattered along life's pathway, the good they do is inconceivable.

Joseph Addison





## AT YOUR SERVICE



We are all familiar with the sight of our Valets, but have you interacted with any of them? They are on duty at the main entrance of DRMC from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Monday through Friday at the Cancer Center main entrance. They are there to make your visit easier and your walk shorter and there is no cost to you. That's right...it is a FREE service provided by DRMC. Of course, tips are appreciated, but not mandatory. Volunteers are encouraged to use their services and tipping is strictly at your discretion. I have gotten to know them by name and usually chat briefly with them to let them know how much I appreciate their efforts. They are available no matter what the weather might be...cold, hot, rainy, windy...and always with a smile. So please, get to know them, thank them for their hard work and, if you are so inclined, some donuts or other snacking foods are always appreciated.

(Pictured below are just three of our Valet corps)

By Peter Richardson



L-R: Jeff Fouse, Connie Arola, Brandon Madrid



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## A NOTE FROM THE VOLUNTEERS' VOICE STAFF

We hope that you enjoy our publication. If there is something you would like us to address, please let us know. It is always interesting to hear from other volunteers about their experiences as a volunteer. Also, if any of you have had any interesting travels, adventures, etc. and/or have pictures you would like to share, please send them to any of us. It is fun for all of us volunteers to "meet" one another when we work different hours, days or department so any interesting tidbits you would like to see in this, your newsletter, is a good way to "meet". You can always drop them off at the front desk for any of the names on the top of the page and we will be sure to include them in the next issue (space allowing).



# SPOTLIGHT ON.....



## CASE MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES

I recently met with Shelly Vincent, RN, Director of Case Management and Karina Barragan, Department Manager of Social Services to learn more about this important DRMC element.

This group, many of whom are new to our hospital, are, in reality, patient advocates. A prime goal of the group is to honor each patient's right to self-determination. Social Services works as part of a multidisciplinary team with physicians, nurses and other non-clinical departments to determine the needs of the patients. The team also provides support for nurses and staff when tough times present a personal or professional challenge. Social and emotional patient needs, as well as assistance in identifying community resources post-care such as legal questions, out-patient placements and even hospice services, are core to the team. Social workers strive to meet patients at the time of admission and continue throughout the time the patients are hospitalized and even beyond. Members of the team (pictured below) are relatively new hires, but were hand selected by Manager Barragan who feels that they will work well with patients and other staff and assist each other to reach maximum service production. A Clothing Closet is maintained to provide clothing to patients who may have come through emergency and whose clothes have been damaged or perhaps the homeless who have received attention at DRMC and have clothes that are in disarray.

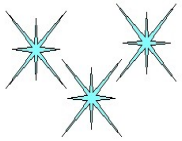
To become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker one must obtain a Masters in Social Work Degree followed by 3,300 hours of clinical supervision and then pass a state exam to receive their accreditation.

"I want to work on better integrating Case Management and Social Service to incorporate feedback and productivity and work toward the common goal of providing quality care to our patients", said Ms. Vincent.

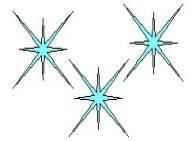


**THE TEAM**

By Peter Richardson



## YES ON MEASURE AA



On Nov. 5, our Volunteers who live in the Coachella Valley will have the opportunity to cast a vote to ensure the continued professional operation of Desert Regional Medical Center (DRMC) and the lifesaving care we provide to more than 200,000 patients each year.

Unfortunately, without Measure AA, there would be dire consequences for the Coachella Valley:

- \*The Desert Healthcare District would be forced to back operation of the hospital, which it cannot afford. The District said this would require it to raise \$200 million—a cost that would fall on District residents.
- \* The District would have to pay for state-mandated seismic upgrades—another \$200 million burden for taxpayers.
- \* Worst of all, the care we provide would suffer massive disruptions, putting DRMC patients at risk.

A “yes” vote on Measure AA renews the lease of DRMC from the Desert Healthcare District and will:

- \*Provide nearly \$650 million in direct payment to the District. Those dollars would go to community nonprofits to expand healthcare access and support public health in the Coachella Valley.
- \* Ensure that Tenet, not the taxpayers, pay for the seismic upgrades that California is requiring of all hospitals by 2030. That cost is estimated at more than \$200 million.
- \* Most importantly, the renewed lease continues, without disruption, the advanced care we provide through our Level 1 Trauma Center, our Comprehensive Stroke Center and so many other lifesaving services, protecting patients throughout the Coachella Valley.

Many of our longtime volunteers will remember that in 1997, Desert Hospital was in a financial crisis. Measure AA protects us from finding ourselves in another crisis. By passing Measure AA, we can continue a public-private partnership that has been so successful over the past 27 years. Since the lease began, the District has provided \$100 million to community organizations and Tenet has expanded the capabilities of our hospital—and the other two hospitals in Desert Care Network: JFK Memorial Hospital in Indio and Hi-Desert Medical Center in Joshua Tree.

We hope that all of our volunteers will vote “Yes” on Measure AA. If you would like to sign up as a supporter of the Measure AA coalition, please go online to <https://yesonmeasureaa.com/>

If you have any questions, please reach out to Group Marketing Director Rich Ramhoff or Chief Strategy Officer Linda Evans for more information.

Thank you for all that you do for our patients and the community.

Rich Ramhoff, Group Marketing Director



DESERT REGIONAL MEDICAL  
CENTER



HI-DESERT MEDICAL  
CENTER



JFK MEMORIAL HOSPITAL



"Long, Long Time Ago,... I can still REMEMBER WHEN...."

## THE ICONIC BELL TOWER



**STARLETS AT TOP OF  
TOWER  
1940s**



**VISITORS AT TOP OF TOWER  
1950s**

The El Mirador Hotel (now the Stergios Building) Bell Tower has symbolized the Palm Springs way of life for almost 100 years. The Bell Tower marks the beautiful entrance to Desert Regional Medical Center. The Hotel/Bell Tower was built in 1927 and opened for operation in 1928. In the 1930s, 1940s, 1950s until the 1970s, the El Mirador Hotel was the "mecca" for celebrities, politicians, sport professionals and other notable figures. The Hotel was sold at a public auction in 1973 along with 19 additional acres to facilitate future expansion of the hospital. The original Bell Tower was spared from demolition in order to preserve it as a Palm Springs historical landmark. In 1977, tower bells rang welcoming the formal dedication of Desert Hospital's \$33 million Sinatra Tower, new entrance, Auxiliary Gift Shop, admitting area and new surgical pavilion. (In 1997, Desert Hospital was leased to Tenet and became Desert Regional Medical Center.) In 1981, a carillon bell system was donated by hospital benefactors. It was installed and dedicated by playing "Oh What a Beautiful Morning" as its first selection. Hospital officials said that the distinctive bell chimes would ring on the hour between 10:00 a.m.

and 7:00 p.m. daily. Unfortunately, the practice ended...perhaps because in 1989 a fire destroyed the building and Bell Tower. The original Walker and Eisen architectural plans were found and both buildings were rebuilt as originally designed. A grand opening was held in 1993.



**SECURITY  
1930s**



**BELLS OF THE  
TOWER  
1980s**

By Barbara Eves



**FORMER MAYOR FRANK BOGART**



**RICHARD RAMHOFF, DIRECTOR OF MARKETING**

(assuming Identical Poses at top of Tower)