

Genesee County Medical Society  
**ALLIANCE FOCUS**  
4438 Oakbridge Dr., Suite B  
Flint, MI 48532

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PERMIT NO. 346

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FOR 2019-2020  
GENESEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY ALLIANCE**

Alliance Member's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone if desired \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Physicians Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Dues:**

GCMS Alliance \$30.00 NO DISCOUNT ON COUNTY DUES

**IMPORTANT:**

**Check payable to: GCMSA**

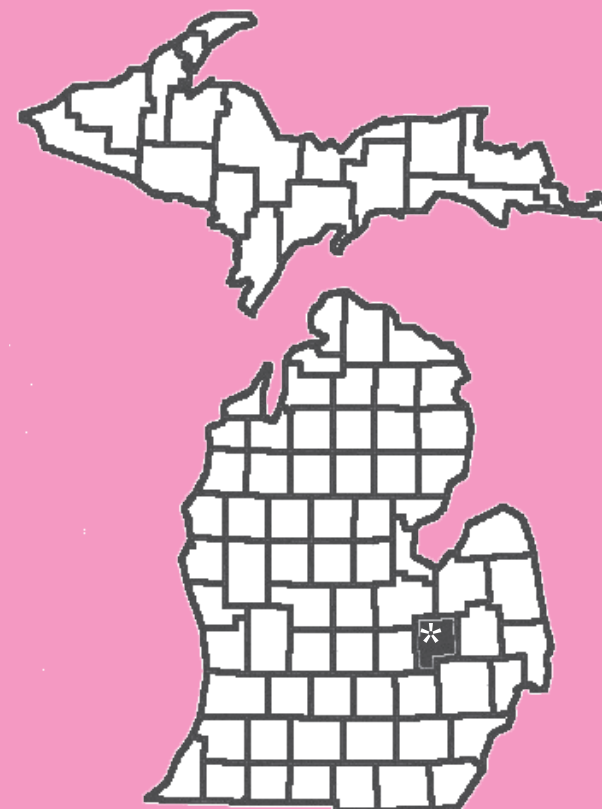
**Total Remittance \$30.00**

**Mail to:**

**Lakshmi Tummala  
1267 Dyemeadow Lane  
Flint, MI 48532  
(810) 908-8023**

*GCMS*

# *Alliance Focus*



## 2019 - 2020

Founded in 1938

Since 1938 the GCMS Alliance has offered programs and  
services to make our county a better place

## President's Message

### JoyDawn Hardman, GCMSA President



Thank you everyone for your kindness, your support and this opportunity. As the new president of the Genesee County Medical Society Alliance, I would like to welcome everyone to the 2019- 2020 year.

I am looking forward to doing my part in promoting the alliance and I am committed to making this a productive year. As I prepared to take on this role, I revisited the GCMSA Mission and By-Laws. The mission statement reads: "The mission of Genesee County Medical Society Alliance is to make a positive difference in the lives of Genesee County residents by promoting healthy lifestyles and education through partnerships

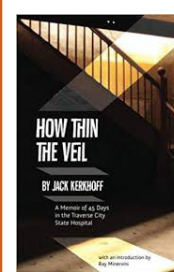
with Genesee County Medical Society and local community organizations, as well as providing a supportive network to medical families." We have an incredible history of fulfilling our mission and more for our community, and I will work hard to help in continuing those.

I was first introduced to GCMS during my years in a healthcare. I enjoyed the opportunity to be involved in the sponsorship of various health awareness events, the President's Ball and various ads in the bulletin or membership guide. My interest and involvement grew when Oya Agabigum called in June of 2012. At that point I became involved in the President's Ball Committee and went from that to the Healing Hands Race Committee and Treasurer of the GCMSA. When Feroza Raffee asked me to be a part of her board. I was honored, energized and committed. That brings us to now.

### Doctors and Their Families Make a Difference

The Genesee County Medical Society Alliance has been involved in this very important community project for several years now. Toiletries and personal care and children's items like toothpaste, deodorant, over-the-counter pain relievers and cold medicines, hygiene products, diapers and household cleaning products are collected and donated to the local women's shelter to help the residents who flee their homes from an abusive relationship. Also included are clothing, shoes and children's books.

Please bring your donations to the International Luncheon.



### Book Club

The next Book Club meet is on Tuesday, November 12 at 11:30 AM

at Signature Chop House Restaurant on Pierson Road.

*The book is How Thin The Veil by Jack Kerkhoff.*

Dear Alliance members,  
Our Elizabeth Jordan's activities are a matter of pride. Following is a link to her visit to Kettering University. Watch!

<https://youtu.be/H2f7MhTz2WY>

## Reach Out and Read Mentor Program

On Wednesday, May 22, 2019 the Woodcroft-Eisenhower Mentoring Program (W.E. Mentoring Program) at Eisenhower Elementary School welcomed Mrs. Feroza Raffee, President-Genesee County Medical Society Alliance (GCMSA), Dr. D. Elizabeth Jordan, GCMSA Chair- Reach Out and Read, and Past President Mrs. Velynda Makhene to speak to the students about the benefits of reading their way to success!

The Genesee County Medical Alliance Society donated \$1,000.00 to purchase brand new books for 80, 2nd and 3rd graders who participated in the W.E. Mentoring Program during the 2018-2019 school year. Awesome! This event happened thanks to Dr. D. Elizabeth Jordan who used her influence to inspire the GCMSA members to support the program and help poorer children have access to new books and reading materials for the summer months. Many of the children had little to no reading materials of their own at home. How honored the W.E. Program is to have had the Genesee County Medical Society Alliance come and contribute to the success, quality of life and well-being of the children at Eisenhower!

This year the mentor program at Eisenhower will continue with two sessions. The first session will be September through November. The second session will run from January through March. The goal is to develop the reading fluency skills of students in preparation for the State of Michigan 3rd grade standardized assessment test. Students

are assessed pre and post the program. All participating students in the mentor program made gains in reading and several were on grade level by May 2019. Durant Tuuri Mott has requested 1,000 Bully books. They will be distributing them to every student in the building and discussing them at parent meetings! Durant Tuuri Mott students will also be the recipients of 600 Healthy Nutrition booklets. Genesee Intermediate School District Head Start will also be distributing the Healthy Nutrition booklets to students and parents. They will take 600 now and will request more as needed.

The books donated by Reach out and Read program are given to the students so that they may practice reading at home. Please donate any gently used books that your children or grand children may not be using. You may bring them to meetings or drop them off at the GCMS office. The donation of \$1,000 last year allowed us to buy \$2,000 worth of books for children. Scholastic gave us a free book for every book that was purchased under our non-profit status! We also donated 320 boxes of crayons so that the children could color the books.

As part of the S. A. V. E. (Stop America's Violence Everywhere) project, 300 Bullying books were also donated to Richfield Public School Academy and 275 Eagles Nest Academy. GCMSA's generosity to help the children in Flint was truly appreciated by staff and students.

*D. Elizabeth Jordan*

## Friendship Group

The Friendship Group is inviting Alliance members to join us for lunch on Wednesday, October 9th at the Brickstreet Restaurant on Grand Blanc Rd. The time is noon. We order from the menu and everyone pays their own. We would love to hear how your summer has gone and would love to have you be a part of our group. We have no particular agenda other than getting to know our members better.

Just RSVP to: Cheryl Thoms at 732-7719 or Carole Hassan at 624-5154 by Monday, Oct. 7





## 2019–2020 GCMSA Board of Directors

### Executive Committee:

President ..... JoyDawn Hardman  
 President-Elect/Co President \*  
 Secretary ..... Rula Ali  
 Treasurer ..... Cheryl Thoms  
 Immediate Past President ..... Feroza Raffee

### STANDING COMMITTEES:

Parliamentarian ..... Kathy Cox  
 Finance.....Cheryl Thoms  
 Membership.....Lakshmi Tummala  
**HEALTH PROMOTION \***  
 Doctors and Their Families..... Lakshmi Tummala,  
 .....JoyDawn Hardman

### REACH OUT AND READ

.....Elizabeth Jordan, Feroza Raffee

### S.A.V.E. IN THE SCHOOLS

.....Elizabeth Jordan, Feroza Raffee  
 Legislation..... Beth Schumacher  
 Nominations .....Feroza Raffee

### PROGRAMS:

International Luncheon ..... Lakshmi Tummala  
 Children's Program..... Maria McCann, Joy Dawn  
 Geranium Luncheon.....Beth Schumacher,  
 JoyDawn Hardman

### High Tea \*

Public Relations.....Rula Ali  
 Directory ..... Lakshmi Tummala, Kathy Cox  
 Cheryl Thoms

Newsletter .....Lakshmi Tummala

Web Liaison .....Rula Ali  
 Liaison to GCFMC Board.....Barb Pougnet  
 Courtesy \*

### Ways and Means \*

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE**  
 GCMS/GCMSA President' Ball ..... Maria McCann,  
 Feroza Raffee, JoyDawn Hardman

### INTEREST GROUPS

Book Club ..... Rula Ali, Raquel Yapchai  
 Friendship Group.....Cheryl Thoms, Carole Hassan

## 2019 – 2020 GCMSA PROGRAMS

**Tues, Sept 24 @ 11am**  
 International Luncheon  
 Home of Feroza Raffee

**Fri, Oct 18 @ 6pm**  
 GCMS/GCMSA President's Ball  
 Genesys Banquet & Conference Center

**Tues, Nov 19 @ 11am**  
 Financial Seminar  
 location to be determined  
 Mariam Joseph, Merrill Lynch

**December 2019**  
 Children's Program  
 GCMS Offices

**Tues, Jan 28 @ 11am**  
 FIA or other social event  
 to be determined

**Tues, Feb 25 @ 11am**  
 High Tea/Coffee Hour  
 location to be determined

**Tues, Mar 24 @ 11am**  
 Flint Culinary Institute  
 Demonstration & luncheon

**Tues, Apr 28 @ 11am**  
 Gardening Class  
 Gerych's in Fenton

**Tues, May 19 @ 11am**  
 Geranium Luncheon  
 Warwick Hills Golf & Country Club

## Board Meetings

Board meetings will be held  
 at the GCMS Office at  
**4:00 PM**  
 on the **first Tuesday**  
 of the following months

September 3, 2019

October 1, 2019

November 5, 2019

December 3, 2019

January 7, 2020

February 4, 2020

March 3, 2020

April 7, 2020

## The Geranium Luncheon

The annual Geranium Luncheon of the Genesee County Medical Society Alliance was held in April at the Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club. President, Feroza Raffee, welcomed the members and gave a report of her year. She concluded by thanking the various committees that worked under her leadership. Also in attendance were Genesee County Medical Society Executive Director, Pete Levine and Executive Assistant, Sherry Smith.

After a delicious lunch, the meeting resumed by the swearing in of the Executive Committee for 2019-2020. Past President, Maria McCann, installed the officers for 2019-2020. JoyDawn Hardman, Rula Ali and Cheryl Thoms will serve as President, Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Past President, Bobby Schoolfield, won the drawing for early membership payment presented by Past President and Membership Chair, Lakshmi Tummala.

The meeting concluded with Bollywood dance routines presented by Neelam Puri, Founder and Artistic Director



of Bollywood Dancing, accompanied by her students. Alliance members joined for some peppy dance moves enjoyed by all. As per tradition, all Past Presidents in attendance received a geranium plant as a thank you gift in appreciation of their service to the organization.



10/24/19 noon – 2pm  
 Watermark Country Club  
 5500 Cascade Road – SE Grand Rapids

Symposium Luncheon Ticket \$30 | Reserved Table (8) \$200

Reserve your spot by 10/15/19 online [eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com)

Fashion designer Kate Spade's tragic death in June 2018 is a call to all of us to normalize the conversation surrounding mental health & suicide--removing the burden of shame. Join this grassroots effort establishing understanding and compassionate communities, by erasing stigma associated with suicide and mental illness.

Attend this public symposium with guest speakers Kellie Dolzynski, Kate Spade New York Regional Director, West and Vonnie Woodrick, Founder of "i understand love heals." Learn how we can use our voices to make a difference.

EVENT PARTNERS

**i understand**  
 love heals

**kate spade**  
 NEW YORK





## GCMSA INTERNATIONAL LUNCHEON 2019

You are invited to the ever-popular potluck lunch to kick off the 2019-2020 year. It will be held at the beautiful home of Dr. Abdullah and Feroza Raffee. Come to catch-up with your friends and enjoy delicious ethnic dishes prepared by our talented members. Please bring a dish to pass, enough for 15, or pay.

Date: Tuesday, September 24  
 Time: 11:00 AM  
 Address: 1195 Old Timber Trail  
 Flint, MI 48532  
 Cost: \$15  
 RSVP: Lakshmi Tummama (810) 908-8123  
[ltummala@gmail.com](mailto:ltummala@gmail.com)  
 JoyDawn Hardman (810) 516-2433  
[jdbddp@gmail.com](mailto:jdbddp@gmail.com)

Please bring a jar of peanut butter to donate to the local women's shelter. Thank you.



## Peace and Unity Day Celebration

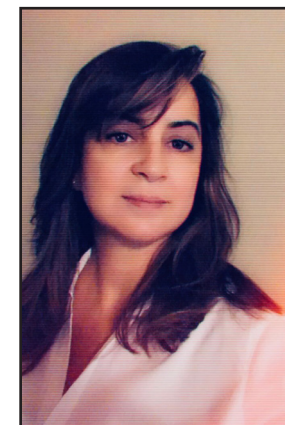


Alliance members are encouraged to mark your calendars to attend the annual event. It is supported by GCMSA, the UM-Flint, Community Foundation of Greater Flint, Flint Public Library and Chinmaya Mission. We are happy to again sponsor prizes for the winning essays.

Date: Saturday, October 12, 2019  
 Place: The University of Michigan-Flint,  
 Wilson Park  
 448 Wallenberg Street  
 Flint, MI 48502

## Rula Ali, GCMSA Secretary

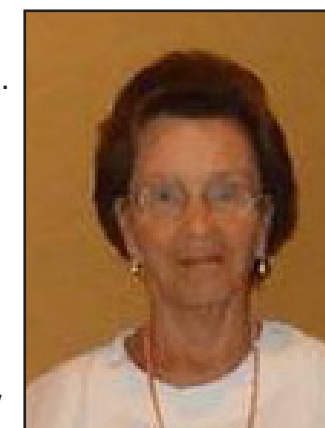
Rula was born and raised in Jerusalem. Her family later moved to Michigan where she met her husband, Omar Bakr, a Cardiologist.



The couple has including Regional Director and is currently serving as Social Media Chair and has four children. Rula is a longtime member of Genesee County Medical Society Alliance, Michigan State Medical Society Alliance and AMA Alliance. She held various positions including GCMSA Secretary, President-Elect, President and is currently serving as Secretary and Web Master. She also held various positions on the MSMSA board. Rula is serving as President-elect on the state board.

## Cheryl Thoms, GCMSA Treasurer

I was born and raised, here in Flint, and have lived my whole life here. When I graduated Flint Southwestern High School, I went to work for the Retailer Credit Bureau. I got married and raised a family of 5 children. Peter and I have been married for 37 years now and with combined families, now have 8 children. All are married and we have 22 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.



I owned a photography studio for many years but am now retired and enjoying it very much. We have been blessed with the ability to travel to many places around the world and enjoy great cruises. Now we are happy to vacation in Florida for part of the winter and enjoy visiting our family.

I have been a part of the Alliance since 1982 and have held many different positions including President in 2006 - 2007. I am happy to be a part of such a great organization and will do the best of my ability to do a good job as the Treasurer this year.

## Remember to Save Oct. 18

2019 GCMS/GCMSA  
*President's Ball*  
 Friday, October 18th, 2019  
 at 6:00 o'clock in the evening  
 Genesys Conference & Banquet Center  
 \$85 per person | Children Welcome  
 email or call for special ticket pricing  
 Sponsorship Opportunities Available  
 RSVP [ssmith@gcms.org](mailto:ssmith@gcms.org)  
 or call 810-733-9923  
 \*please include entree choice  
 (chicken or vegetarian)  
 Black tie optional  
 Valet Parking  
 Available

*Congratulations to GCMSA members,  
 Rula Ali and Beth Schumacher who  
 are serving on the MSMSA Board as  
 President-elect and Health Promo-  
 tions Chairperson, respectively.*