

GCMS Alliance Focus

Volume 3, Issue 2

Winter 2014

Upcoming events:

- January 15, 2014 11:00 am
Coffee at Maria McCann's
- February, 2014 Wine and
Dessert at Samira Rao's
- March, 2014 Cooking
Class, Mona Sahouri
- April, 2014
Yoga with Sue Kirby
- May 20, 2014 10:30 am
Geranium Luncheon at
Warwick Hills



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Friendship Group

Our Friendship Group meets every other month at Taboon Restaurant on Linden Road at Miller Rd. We have a great time being together and catching up on what has been happening in our lives. We have no agenda and no meeting, but are just there for a good time of fellowship with others that are presently in the Alliance and some that were members in the past. We have been getting new people at the last few luncheons and it is great to have them be a part of this group. If you have any questions please call Carole Hassan at 208-7144 or Cheryl Thoms at 732-7719.



Coffee and Women's Health

The January meeting is a coffee at Maria McCann's house on Wednesday, January 15 at 11:00 a.m. 8284 Misty Meadows, Grand Blanc, 48439 218-428-3227
The program will be Women's Health Issues with Dr. Neelam Dutt.

If you have certain questions you would like answers to, please write them down and hopefully we will have plenty of time to get them all answered. This is not a luncheon, we will have coffee and rolls and bagel type things.



Co-President's Note



Dear Alliance members,

Happy new year to all of the Alliance members and your families and best wishes for joy and peace as we begin the year 2014.

We hope everyone is enjoying our Michigan winter wonderland and this holiday season with family and friends. This past fall, we have had a full schedule of events that our Alliance has been in-

volved in. We hope that you enjoy this issue, which will give a recap of those activities, ranging from our combined events with the Genesee County Medical Society to the luncheons and service projects that we have been involved with this fall. We had wonderful participation for some of our service projects this fall such as the Doctors and Their Families Make a Difference Day (DATFMADD), the Peace Day celebration, the AMA foundation donations, and of course, the donations for the service project at St. Luke's center. Thank you to all our Alliance members who helped, donated or participated in these projects.

Starting in January, we will again start our programs with a coffee in the home of Mrs. Maria McCann. In February and March, we have tentatively planned a couple of evening programs which

will be finalized in the coming months and at which we hope to see many of you.

As co-presidents, we are looking forward to meeting and socializing with our alliance members at our upcoming programs. Our Alliance group aims to support physician families across all stages of life, and we always appreciate your feedback regarding programs and service projects that would be relevant to you, this year and in coming years.

Thank you for your committed and continued membership in this organization.

With warm wishes,

Vibha and Ruqsana

Congratulations to Dr. Nita Kulkarni, winner of the 2013 Sybil M. Atwood Award for community service

Children's Event

This year's Children's Event was chaired by Raquel Yapchai and took place December 11th. The chosen place for our event was The St. Luke's New Life Center located in the City of Flint. The Center's mission is to provide life skills and



work place training to help empower women to become self sufficient. In addition, the Center offers free daycare

to those women who need it. This was the area that was chosen for the Children's event. It was our desire to help provide a safe environment for these children that would encourage learning, creativity and FUN!! Also a place where moms could feel good

about leaving their babies... And still stay within our budget of \$515. With the help of Jeanette Rivera who provided a list of "most desired" items, we set to work. Many of our Alliance members were able to help by donating needed items. Among items included; books, dress up clothes, DVDs/VHS tapes, VCR, art supplies, dolls and stuffed animals, large area rug, various toys, games, puzzles, chairs, blocks... And various other items. Extensive "bargain shopping" and Craig's Lists negotiations for items not collected was reserved for the budgeted money. On what felt like one of the coldest days of the season, six of us Alliance members met up to work on the room. We were all amazed at the extraordinary services the Center has to offer and after a full day of working, we were proud to walk

out knowing we had been a part of it. The room is still an ongoing project and any donated items would still be welcomed and greatly appreciated. Those present on the 11th included Maria McCann, Jeanette Rivera, Lakshmi Tummala, Rula Ali-Bakr, Vibha Kaushal and Raquel Yapchai. Much appreciation to those ladies as well all who were so generous and donated items.



2013 President's Ball - Sopranos style

On November 9th the 2013 GCMS/GCMA President's Ball was held at Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club in Grand Blanc. This year's theme was based on the hit TV series **The Sopranos**, as requested by Dr. Raymond Rudoni. The evening honored and thanked Dr. Ray Rudoni for his service over the past year, and also welcomed in new president Dr. Shafi Ahmed.

Guests were treated to an Italian Bistro atmosphere, with crisp red and white table settings, sun-flowers, and fresh herbs, along



with a strolling violinist. Pasta dinner was served family style to compliment the casual feel of the night.

A fun "Name that Movie" game show was organized by Dr. Bobby Mukkumala and Jeanette Rivera, in which clips from classic mafia themed movies were played. Contestants competed to correctly identify the movie, and were even allowed to request help from the audience, to help keep everyone entertained. Dr. Rudoni also kept the night light and playful, with his occasional "wise guy" lines. At

the conclusion of the program, everyone was able to kick back and let loose with a lively dance party.

Overall, it was a well attended event with nearly 150 guests. Special thanks goes out to the planning committee, sponsors, Brady Events and Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club, and also to the children of Sumita Nagpal, Anisha and Arun for their piano and violin talents.

Maria McCann



International Luncheon

The GCMSA International Luncheon this year was held on Friday, September 27 at the beautiful home of Drs. Mona and S. Kiran. The day called for sunshine and a balmy weather. Members started arriving early to be able to meet their friends in the Alliance that they have not seen for a while or to make new ones.



Susan Piper and Maria McCann played hostesses for this program. The MSMSA President, Cindy Ackerman and North East Regional Director, Janie Gugino were our special guests.

The tables were decorated with fall flowers and foliage. After a busy social hour, Co-Presidents Vibha Kaushal and Ruqsana Ahmed started the meeting with a report of all the activities planned for the year and urged everyone to participate in them. Treasurer, Feroza Raffee gave her report and Membership Chair, Lakshmi Tummala introduced new members to the Alliance. She encouraged them to get involved in any of the many projects that the organization does in the community. All the other Committee Chairs in attendance spoke briefly about their work.

It was then time to feast on the several dishes carefully prepared by many of our members. Keeping with the theme, they brought ethnic food representing their countries. The array included dishes from Bangladesh, China, Germany, Hungary, India, Korea,



Puerto Rico, Taiwan and Turkey. Indian chai accompanied the many delectable desserts. This was one time when the members forgot to count their calories!



New Member Profiles

On behalf of the GCMS Alliance, I would like to welcome the following new members and invite them to participate in the activities of the group.

Usha Thawani was born and raised in New Delhi, India. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Arts majoring in English Literature. Usha is married to Dr. Hemant Thawani who trained in Internal Medicine at Hurley Medical Center and did a Fellowship in Endocrinology at USC. The Thawanis came to Flint in 1992 and have been living here since. They have two children, a daughter who is a sophomore at UM-Ann Arbor and a son who is in the tenth grade. Usha enjoys

cooking, reading and occasionally works at her husband's office. In her spare time, she likes to volunteer at the local Indian spiritual center, the Chinmaya Tapovanam.

Uma Botta was born and raised in Gudivada, India. She has a Bachelor of Science degree. She is married to Allergist, Srinivas Rao Botta. Dr. Botta graduated from Andhra University Medical School in Vizag, India. The couple lived in Montego Bay, Jamaica for a year and a half before they moved to Flint in 1997. They have two grown boys. The older is at CMU Medical School and the second is in Pre-Med at UM-Ann Arbor. Dr. Botta had his training in Internal

Medicine at Hurley Medical Center and went on to do a Fellowship in Allergy in Iowa City, Iowa. Uma's hobbies include volunteering at the Genesys Hospice Center and the Indian spiritual center, the Chinmaya Tapovanam.



New Member Profiles continued

Raymond Rudoni MD is a Michigan native who grew up in Warren. His wife, Paula, is a board certified family physician. The Rudonis have two daughters. Their oldest daughter Abby, is a sophomore at Powers High School and their youngest daughter, Emily, is a seventh grader at Grand Blanc Holy Family. Incidentally, Paula is also a member of the Alliance. Dr. Ray Rudoni did his residency at

Beaumont Hospital and completed a one year fellowship in Hospital Administration and served on their teaching faculty. He served as Vice Chief of Emergency Medicine at Beaumont. He also served as an examiner for the American Board of Emergency Medicine for their oral board certification exams. Dr. Rudoni served as the President of the Michigan College of Emergency Physicians, and has been a leader

in that organization for several years. He currently serves as Chairman of MSMS Legislation and Regulations Committee. He also serves on Third-Party Liaison Committee. He has been elected Vice Chief of Staff at McLaren-Flint. He is the Immediate Past President of the Genesee County Medical Society. Dr. Rudoni's hobbies include bicycling, reading, concerts, movies and bird hunting.

Lakshmi K. Tummala

Chairperson, Membership

Member address updates

Please make note of the following additions and changes to the directory:

Uma Botta

100080 Burnside Ct.
Grand Blanc, MI 48439
810-603-3428 rbotta@comcast.net

Usha Thawani

64444 Warwick Circle
Grand Blanc, MI 48439
810-603-3831 uthawani@hotmail.com

Donna Johnson's new e-mail:
dj999333@sbcglobal.net

Alice Schwarz's address is no longer valid.

Anita Mannam

8430 Misty Meadows
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

Marianne Almeida

314 Bent Tree Dr.
Stanley, NC 28164
810-610-4888



Members at International Luncheon

October Membership Meeting Report

We, as the GCMS Alliance, are indebted to Jay Kommareddi for her effort to make us aware of the detriment to our society being caused by the ongoing blight in our society by those promoting sex trafficking. She arranged for Detective Sergeant Edward Price and County Prosecutor David Leyton to be at our October Membership Meeting to discuss the prevalence of the problem in Genesee County. The purpose was to make us aware of it and enlist our help in combating this plague.

We gathered over 60 people, members and guests, to listen to these men and others make us aware that this is a threat to our society that has been growing and of which, for the most part we have been unaware. Fascinating as it was to listen to their stories of incidents, it sent shivers down

my spine to become aware that Flint has been targeted.

One of our members told her story of how she happened to observe a young girl in a car appearing terrified. While the child's captors went into the store she called 911 and summoned the police, giving them the identifying information.



We left there more aware of how vigilant we need to be with our own children, letting them know our concern for them. We became

more aware of the danger that the use of social media has had through innocent careless use. It becomes progressively more imperative that we know what our children are doing in their phone and computer communications, constantly reminding them that there are consequences to making contact with strangers. Yes. It does mean that we need to be household policemen to ensure the safety of our children from the predators of society.

Cheryl Thoms



Peace Day

Genesee County Medical Society Alliance (GCMSA) participated in an annual peace day and SAVE day event on October 5th, 2013, in collaboration with Genesee County Committee for Community Peace (GCCCCP). The event was held at the University of Michigan- Flint and the celebration started at the campus's Mahatma Gandhi statue. The Peace Day event in Flint is held annually to coincide with Mahatma Gandhi's birthday, which falls on October 2nd. There were a number of speeches, dances, and other performances by volunteers from the community that

portrayed the history and relevance of Peace Day. In accordance with this year's theme of reducing violence and homicides in Flint, GCMSA participated in the celebration by presenting a \$250 sponsorship check to the Meta Peace Team to conduct an active



non-violence training workshop to youth groups in Genesee County. The GCMSA also provided the coloring books used in our "SAVE in the Schools" program as a special activity for children. Many GCMSA members were in attendance at the celebration. We, The GCMSA, sponsor many programs that are aimed to serve our community. Since bullying is a major problem nationally and globally, our goal is to help teach youth the importance of peaceful conflict resolution.

Vibha Kaushal
GCMSA (Co-president)

**FEBRUARY IS HEART DISEASE
AWARENESS MONTH—DON'T
FORGET TO SCHEDULE YOUR
ANNUAL PHYSICAL.**

Condolences to the
family of Past President
Margaret Bonet and to
Linda Lemieux on the
death of her husband.



Legislation

*Watch for emails and please participate in
the **MSMS Action Center**. Each person
makes a difference. For more information
contact beschumacher@hotmail.com.*



GCMSA Board Members 2013-2014

GCMSA Focus edited by:
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