

carenews

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“As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, let us each be thankful for the realization of what is truly most important in our lives.”

Good day!

In this issue:



There has been much speculation in the aftermath of the French terrorist attacks why the 11th arrondissement in Paris was a target. Some have postulated that this tiny piece of geography represents just about everything that those whose currency is fear and terror would hate: the freedom to create art, to express differing views, to savor good food and drink, to enjoy laughter and the pleasure of friendship, to embrace diversity, to know the joy of life.

Yes, in recent weeks, the French have certainly bowed their heads in tears and mourning. But, they have also taught us something about how we respond in the face of evil. We carry on, we hold our heads high, we are not afraid. Of course, we are more vigilant, careful and prepared. But, we continue to live our lives, and we try to do so with purpose, courage, and joy.

As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, let us each be thankful for the realization of what is truly most important in our lives.

For myself, I am thankful for my family, friends, and colleagues who were there for Laura and I last week as her mother passed away. She (Nonni Maria) was our last living parent; a true matriarch for the family; and someone whose “old world wisdom” can never be replaced. It was an honor to be her son-in-law.

Here is what some of you had to say about why you are most thankful:

“I am thankful and blessed for having both my 85 year old parents at my Thanksgiving table. I am thankful for health and love of family. I am thankful for an abundance of dear friends. I am thankful to God.” ~ Paula Foster, Manager Flu Program, Infection Control, VNA of Care New England

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"Thankful for family and friends!" ~ Lori-Ann Gagne, Emergency Department, Memorial Hospital

"The challenging times I went through in the past that make me thankful for all I have today." ~ Chris Dixon, ANM, Patient Assessment Services, Butler Hospital

"I am thankful for the people I work with and for the patients that choose to come to Kent." ~ Sue Bartos, RN, Cath Lab, Kent Hospital

"I'm thankful for true friends, good health and beautiful granddaughters!" ~ Ernie Pascale, Printing Services Manager, Care New England

"I am thankful to be working with such a great and compassionate team at the TPC School – Marty Morris, Zolange Mejia, Katie Carreiro, Cheryl Weinstein, and Rachel Slack! We work well together and support each other when needed in classrooms." ~ Dorothy Poirier, Family Support Coordinator, The Providence Center

"I am thankful for my family and friends who bring joy to my life every day. And in these turbulent times, I am forever grateful for those who sacrifice their own time with family and friends in service to our country." ~ Kathy Soares, Risk Management, Care New England

"I am thankful that even in the midst of the stress and uncertainty of the health care environment, our staff still offers their best to our patients." ~ Rev. Caroline Patterson Inlow, Spiritual Care, Women & Infants Hospital

"I am thankful for my family, my job and the great people I work with in admitting." ~ Filomena Lopez, Admitting, Memorial Hospital

"I am thankful for our incredible IS team that had come together this past year to bring incredible value to our wonderful organization through their knowledge, passion, compassion and teamwork and the numerous technologies that enabled business growth and opportunity..." ~ Suma Gaddam, Chief Information Officer, Care New England

"I am thankful for my supervisors' (Mary Marran and Linda Martins) belief in me, their encouragement to participate in the CNE Leadership Development Seminars, and their desire to guide me in my personal and professional development. Moreover, I am wholly grateful to my co-workers, who have repeatedly filled in for me during my absences while I've participated! Thank you!" ~ Megan Morrow-Radlowski, CIS Clerk, Butler Hospital

"...I'm thankful to have friends; without them I would not have my sanity and neither would they..." ~ Jasmin DiMaio, Substance Abuse Residential Programs, The Providence Center

"...I am most thankful and blessed to have two beautiful, healthy children who never cease to amaze me every day. For my loving husband who supports myself and our children in every way. For my parents and sisters for their love, laughter and support and for all of my amazing friends both near and far..." ~ Elizabeth Trail Burns, RN, Department of Pediatrics, Women & Infants Hospital

"I am thankful for my grandfather, Anthony DiTommaso, who is turning 90 years old at the end of this year. I am thankful that he is still in good health... and quite funny! I am so thankful for his service to our country, where he served in the Marine Corps during WWII." ~ Kaila Davis, Professional Billing, Care New England

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"I am thankful for having the pleasure to work with great co-workers for the past 30 years at MHRI. They are my work family and I am so thankful for them." ~ Elaine Palagi, Audiology, Memorial Hospital

"I am thankful for a wonderful group of coworkers. Despite the myriad of changes recently, we really work as a TEAM and support one another. I feel very blessed to work at the VNA of Care New England." ~ Emily Lyons, OTR/L, Assistant Rehab Manager, VNA of Care New England

"I am thankful for being part of a GREAT Team....The Wellness Education Employment Department. We are all team players and give our all to provide the best service possible to our clients. The reward is in helping the clients move ahead of their own expectations." ~ Sandra Adorno, Employment Specialist, The Providence Center

"I am thankful for my family and friends, my health and prosperity." ~ Maggie Rego, Breast Health Center, Kent Hospital

"I am thankful for my health and the health of my loved ones, for the opportunity to manage this new exciting program and for the brilliant team I am working alongside." ~ Erin Ursillo, Program Manager Young Adult Partial, Butler Hospital

"I am grateful for so many things, but in particular this year my attention is drawn to my mother of 93 years who I recently lost. I am grateful to have had such a wonderful, caring mother who exhibited strength and empowerment at a time when it was not commonplace in women..." ~ Fran Giatas, Administration, Care New England

"I am thankful for... the thoughtful, professional and skilled nurses, sonographers and genetic counselors at the Prenatal Diagnosis Center. They deliver care in the most challenging circumstances with such grace and empathy. They are amazing!" ~ Stephen Carr, MD, Director, Prenatal Diagnosis Center, Women & Infants Hospital

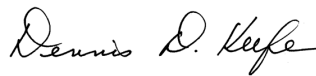
"I am so very thankful for parents that I am proud of, a wife I adore, children that I would give anything to protect, and grandchildren to constantly remind me what a wonderful life I have been blessed with..." ~ Peter Insana, Revenue Cycle Systems Applications, Kent Hospital

"I am thankful for second chances and puppy kisses." ~ Sandra Coletta, EVP/COO, Care New England

"I am thankful for my job and everyone that was there for me when my son passed away last year! Everyone was so helpful in my time of need and they are still there when I break down sometimes because I miss him so much..." ~ Laurie Amaral, Patient Financial Services, Care New England

I am thankful for all of you and all you bring to Care New England every day! Have a great Thanksgiving holiday, and to those of you who are working to care for our patients, I extend my special gratitude for your dedication and service.

Sincerely,



Dennis D. Keefe
President and Chief Executive Officer

ConvergenceRI
Click [here](#) to view this week's ConvergenceRI



Women & Infants breast surgeon helps promote advanced surgical techniques



Jennifer Gass, MD, surgeon-in-chief and co-director of the Breast Health Center at Women & Infants Hospital, in her role as president of the National Consortium of Breast Centers (NCBC), announced the organization of a three-day School of Oncoplastic Surgery in January. The course offers surgeons the opportunity to develop new skills they can use when performing breast conserving surgery (lumpectomy) on breast cancer patients. The goal is to improve surgical outcomes, decrease complications and reduce the number of procedures breast cancer patients have to undergo. Several new technologies will be available for surgeons to learn about at the meeting.

Oncoplastic surgery combines methods to remove cancer with reconstructive techniques to ensure tumor control while achieving better aesthetic outcomes for women. The American Society of Breast Surgeons recently recommended oncoplastic techniques for breast cancer patients, but current training in general breast surgery does not provide in-depth knowledge of skills training in the area.

“This unique course meets an important need, particularly for the many active surgeons who have never received training in oncoplastic surgery,” Dr. Gass says. “By making this teaching available to surgeons throughout the country, it also helps NCBC meet its goal of giving more women access to the very best in breast surgery.”

Dr. Gass traveled to Paris in 2011 to complete a one-month sabbatical in oncoplastic breast surgery with world-renowned breast surgeon Krishna B. Clough, MD, medical director of the Paris Breast Center. For more information on this technique or other treatments for breast cancer, call the Breast Health Center at (401) 453-7540.

Women & Infants named ‘top performer’ by The Joint Commission

Women & Infants has been recognized as a 2014 *Top Performer on Key Quality Measures*® by The Joint Commission, the leading accreditor of health care organizations in the U.S.

Women & Infants was recognized as part of The Joint Commission’s 2015 annual report *America’s Hospitals: Improving Quality and Safety*, for attaining and sustaining excellence in accountability measure performance for perinatal care. Women & Infants is one of only two hospitals in Rhode Island and 1,043 hospitals out of more than 3,300 eligible hospitals in the U.S. to achieve the 2014 *Top Performer* distinction.



“We are so proud of this honor and to be recognized among some of the best hospitals in our country,” said Mark R. Marcantano, president and chief operating officer, Women & Infants Hospital. “This distinction as a *Top Performer* by The Joint Commission is recognition of our organization’s continuous focus on improving the safety and the quality of the care that we provide to the women and newborns of our region.”

The *Top Performer* program recognizes hospitals for improving performance on evidence-based interventions that increase the chances of healthy outcomes for patients with certain conditions. The performance measures included in the recognition program are heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia, surgical care, children’s asthma, inpatient psychiatric services, stroke, venous thromboembolism, perinatal care, immunization, tobacco treatment, and substance abuse. To be a 2014 *Top Performer*, hospitals had to meet three performance criteria based on 2014 accountability measure data, including:

- Achieve cumulative performance of 95 percent or above across all reported accountability measures;
- Achieve performance of 95 percent or above on each and every reported accountability measure with at least 30 denominator cases; and
- Have at least one core measure set that had a composite rate of 95 percent or above, and within that measure set, achieve a performance rate of 95 percent or above on all applicable individual accountability measures.

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“Delivering the right treatment in the right way at the right time is a cornerstone of high quality health care. I commend the efforts of Women & Infants Hospital for their excellent performance on the use of evidence-based interventions,” said Mark R. Chassin, MD, FACP, MPP, MPH, president and CEO, The Joint Commission.

Peri-Op 101 class ready to advance

To address the need for trained nurses who can work in the operating room at Memorial Hospital, nursing leadership tapped curriculum from the Association of Operating Room Nurses to create an in-house training program called Peri-Op 101. Registered nurses interested in working in the OR were hired for the program and have been undergoing training for the transition. They are almost ready to be independent practitioners caring for patients in this busy area of the hospital. The group recently created a patient education display highlighting all phases of surgery that was on display in the main lobby to commemorate Peri-Op Nurses Week.



Pictured here, in the front row from left to right, are: Nancy Pace, RN; Jeannine Borozny, RN, ACNM, assistant nurse manager of surgical services at Memorial; Cassondra Squillante, RN; Kimberly Deroche, RN; Jennifer Muschiano, RN; and Flor Lang, RN. In the back is Marissa Hart, RN.

Hats off to CNE donors!

Thank you to everyone who supported the CNE Employee Giving Campaign! Our staff took full advantage of the opportunity to support local organizations in the community as well as the CNE operating units.

 **Employee Giving Campaign**
September 9 to October 30, 2015

Through the campaign, our OUs benefit directly from the generosity of our staff. CNE programs that received support include the VNA's Hospice, Butler's Basic Human Needs Fund, Women & Infants' Spiritual Care, and the Annual Funds of Kent and Memorial!

Through United Way, our employees supported local charities that touched their hearts! The list includes the Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket, Children's Friend, Crossroads RI, The Institute for Study & Practice of Nonviolence, and the RI Community Food Bank just to name a few. Of course, some gifts were directed back to our CNE OUs.

The Fund for Community Progress also saw support for their grassroots agencies that are focused on “Change, not Charity.” Again, thank you for supporting programs that provide treatments and research that offers hope.

Coventry woman recognized with Kent Daisy Nursing Award

Kent Hospital recently presented Missy Myrtle, RN, of Coventry, an intensive care unit nurse, the November 2015 DAISY Award. The award is part of the DAISY Foundation's program to recognize the above-and-beyond efforts performed by nurses every day.

Missy was nominated by a patient who wrote, “We were blessed to have such a wonderful nurse looking over our loved one. Missy's experience and knowledge is exactly what is needed in the critical care unit.”

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"It is a pleasure to recognize Missy for all of her hard work and dedication to her patients and Kent Hospital," said Rebecca Burke, RN, MS, NEA-BC, senior vice president patient care services and chief nursing officer. "In Missy's nomination you can feel the appreciation of the patient's family as they explain how they were comforted knowing that Missy would be taking care of their loved one during this difficult time. We strive for the best patient care here at Kent Hospital and Missy demonstrated that. Thank you Missy."

The not-for-profit DAISY Foundation is based in Glen Ellen, CA, and was established by family members in memory of J. Patrick Barnes. Patrick died at the age of 33 in late 1999 from complications of Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP), a little known but not uncommon auto-immune disease. The care Patrick and his family received from nurses while he was ill inspired this unique means of thanking nurses for making a profound difference in the lives of their patients and patient families.

If you would like to nominate an extraordinary nurse who you encountered at Kent Hospital, you can submit an application <http://kentri.org/daisyaward> or in person. Fellow providers and patients may nominate a nurse for the award.

VNA of Care New England presents An Evening of Fire and Ice

The VNA of Care New England will host An Evening of Fire and Ice on Thursday, December 10, 2015, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the Roger Williams Park Botanical Center. The event is open to the community and funds raised will support the mission of the VNA. Enjoy the sounds of cool jazz, gourmet food and cocktails, all amid beautiful botanical surroundings.



VNA of Care New England

Skilled Nursing • Rehab Therapy • Hospice • Private Duty Home Care

Individual tickets are priced at \$100, but discounted at \$75 for employees. Payroll deduction is available. For more information, please contact Jessica Kalmar, special events coordinator, Care New England, at (401) 921-8508 or JKalmar@carene.org. The presenting sponsor of An Evening of Fire and Ice is Centreville Bank.

Memorial announces community art installation


In an effort to enhance the patient experience at Memorial Hospital, a hospital employee has partnered with DAWN Southern New England to open a community art space called the "Hospital Gallery" and has opened its first art installation titled "Seasons." The artwork, curated by Lori-Ann Gagne, secretary to the physician-in-chief of the Emergency Department at Memorial and Rich Waltrous of DAWN, will hang in dedicated space off the main lobby.

An opening reception celebrating "Seasons" is scheduled for Monday, November 30, 2015, from 3 to 8 p.m., with an artist meet and greet from 5 to 8 p.m. The public and hospital family is invited for an evening of beautiful art and community gathering. Refreshments will be served.



"Because of the calming and healing effect of art, a hospital is a wonderful place to showcase various pieces," says John Byrne, MD, chief medical officer/chief operating officer of Memorial. "This will help us in our mission to provide a positive patient and family experience at Memorial, as well as helping to inspire wellness and healing."

"Seasons" gathers a collection of multimedia pieces by five southern New England artists working in oils, acrylics and oil pastels. Artists included in the exhibit are: Karen Rand Anderson; Marjorie Ball; Sherie Bishop Harkins; Ewa Romaszewicz; and Ann Rozhon.

The public is invited to view the exhibit when visiting the hospital. The "Hospitality Gallery" space will be presenting three exhibits of art annually, offering a new creative selection every four months. 



Care New England