

Published by Calvary Hospital, the nation's only acute care specialty hospital devoted exclusively to the palliative care of adult patients in the advanced stages of cancer and other life-limiting illnesses.

**CALVARY
HOSPITAL**

Where Life Continues

CROSSROADS

SPRING

2021

Kelly Saulnier, RN,
is one of the many
Calvary Hospice nurses
who heroically care for our
patients in the community
during the pandemic.

COVID-19 UPDATES

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LETTER FROM THE CALVARY FUND BOARD CHAIRMAN



Dear Friends of Calvary,

As Chair of the Calvary Fund Board, I am honored by the outstanding commitment of our donors to our community and the mission of Calvary.

Last year, we witnessed great disruption and crisis, but as we reached for those bedrocks in our community, we were reminded that we have the foundation to weather all storms.

Calvary Hospital has seen more than one pandemic, but continues to provide excellence in palliative care to help cancer patients in their final days. Their commitment to providing compassion, comfort and care to thousands of patients and families is possible because of your support.

As we look ahead, we are inspired and moved by the care we were able to provide to Mary Murray's beloved sister Sheila in 2017. For 11 weeks, Calvary provided care to her sister for which Mary is truly grateful as she shares in her story...

"I wish I could have kept her at home, and even if I was provided with nurses 24 hours a day, it wouldn't have mattered. I couldn't provide the same care she received at Calvary."

For many in the healthcare community, COVID-19 has forced them to confront the harsh realities that people are facing at the end-of-life.

Despite the efforts of many organizations, there are still many misconceptions about palliative care among the public and within the healthcare community. This year, Calvary is embarking on an initiative, "A Year in Palliative Care," to address the critical issues at end of life. They will initiate a multi-channel campaign to educate people about palliative care.

Please visit www.calvaryhospital.org for updates, or to sign up to receive palliative care email alerts at www.calvaryhospital.org/inform.

Your continued commitment to Calvary Hospital is paramount and fundamental to the growth and expansion of the hospital and its services. Thank you once again for your support of this sacred mission.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carlos Hernandez". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Carlos Hernandez
Chairman of Calvary Fund Board
Calvary Hospital

COVID-19 UPDATES

Calvary's priority has always been the safety and well-being of all patients, staff and visitors. This principle was tested numerous times during the coronavirus roller coaster that we experienced last year. With 12 months of this pandemic under our belt, Calvary is more committed than ever to safety.

HERE'S WHAT WE'RE DOING NOW TO CONTINUE KEEPING US ALL SAFE:



- We continue to screen every employee and visitor at our Bronx and Brooklyn campuses;
- New patients, without any history of this virus in the past 90 days, are tested for COVID-19;
- Our staff in the Hospital and Calvary@Home have enough PPE to make their patient visits as safe as possible;
- Bereavement support groups continue to be offered remotely for all ages; and
- We redeploy staff as needed to support our staff with patient care responsibilities.

When the Pfizer vaccine was first made available, Calvary offered it to all employees who wanted it. Under CDC and NYSDOH's direction, we also administered doses to people in the community who met eligibility criteria.

We continue to be vigilant in minimizing the risk of transmitting COVID-19 and encourage everyone to continue wearing their masks, practice social distancing, avoid gatherings with more than 10 people, and get vaccinated as soon as possible.

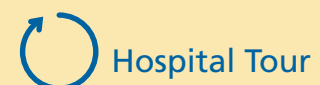
TO LEARN MORE, VISIT: www.calvaryhospital.org/covid-19

Calvary's website updates make seeking care at the end of life less daunting.



www.calvaryhospice.org

For those who are interested in receiving *CalvaryCare*® where they reside, we recently launched a new site that consolidates all the information you would need to know about hospice care in the community. Calvary can seamlessly transition patients from their home to an inpatient setting with just a simple phone call.



www.calvaryhospital.org

For people who like to rely on our main hospital for information, we have updated our virtual tour located on the home page. Wherever you are, see what Calvary can offer you at our four locations.



It's hard to believe that it was barely 30 years ago when the term Palliative Care first became known in the U.S. This refers to care a person receives that is focused on symptom control, pain relief, and quality of life, rather than a cure for the illness.

Many people usually become familiar with this topic when a loved one receives hospice in the last six months of life. However, palliative care can be given while other ongoing treatments are being applied. This aspect sets palliative care apart from hospice care.

Now the tide has turned. For people still receiving some sort of curative care, palliative care can actually play an important role in a person's program of care before they get to the end of life. It is no longer relegated to end-of-life patients.

For many in the healthcare community, COVID-19 has forced them to confront the harsh realities of people facing the end of life.

"COVID-19 transformed medical care in a revolutionary way," said Christopher P. Comfort, MD, Chief Operating Officer, Calvary Hospital. "The sheer patient volume and unpredictability of an unfamiliar disease spotlighted how important it was for all healthcare professionals – especially those in curative settings – to have basic knowledge of palliative care."

Palliative care can play an important role in a person's program of care before they get to the end of life.

Despite efforts by many entities, there are still many misconceptions about palliative care among the public and within the healthcare community. To help address this, Calvary is embarking on an initiative this year, "A Year in Palliative Care." Using a multi-channel approach, Calvary will educate people by spotlighting topics such as: questions to ask when seeking hospice care, inpatient versus home hospice, keeping family members engaged, Advance Care Planning, and much more.

"The ability of a physician to bring up palliative and possible hospice care to their patients at the appropriate time – is a fundamental responsibility of the medical profession. Doing so can help avoid unnecessary and futile treatments that have little impact on patients' quality of life," noted Dr. Comfort.

"Palliative care should be part of the skillset of every physician. We should not be segregating palliative care into a medical specialty like it is now."

ELLEN LU TAYLOR

*At Calvary,
people do not die alone.*



Ellen

Since her birth 86 years ago, Ellen Lu Taylor has lived her life to its fullest. Born in Jakarta, Indonesia into an ethnic Chinese family, Ellen was raised in Bandung, the city where her father's family goes back several generations.

After World War II and the 15-year Indonesian National Revolution, Ellen's parents sent her to boarding school in Australia to continue her education.

When she finished her studies in Australia, Ellen could not go home because there was still a lot of animosity against the Chinese. So Ellen went to Bangkok, Thailand and taught there in the international school before joining her family, who had by then immigrated to the United States.

Her childhood fostered Ellen's linguistic ability. Today she speaks English, Dutch and Indonesian fluently, as well as some Chinese.

In New York, Ellen met and married her husband, Eugene Taylor. He worked for many years as a leasing and accounting professional for various firms. Sadly, in 1981, Eugene died after they were married for more than two decades.

Ellen also had a long career teaching in New York City's public schools. She taught music and served as a substitute teacher in various grade schools, mostly in the Bronx and Queens.

"I enjoyed teaching so very much! I am so thankful that I found a career that I was born to do."

Ellen was a longtime congregant at the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in Manhattan. It was there that Ellen had friends and people from church who received *CalvaryCare*® at the end of their lives.

Whenever she visited people at the Bronx campus, Ellen always marveled at the excellent care they received and how cooperative the staff was.

What impressed her the most was the fact that no patient at Calvary dies alone.

"Not everyone has people coming to visit them. It's comforting to know that the staff will make sure that a patient won't die alone."

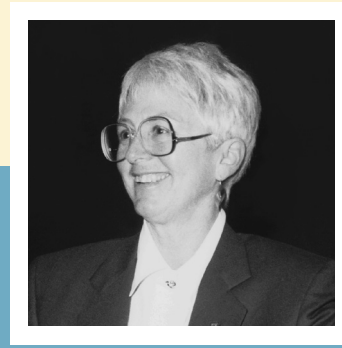
Even though she did not have any family members at Calvary, Ellen has supported the Hospital's mission for more than two decades. Calvary is very fortunate to count her as a supporter!

TO READ MORE DONOR STORIES ONLINE, PLEASE VISIT:

www.calvaryhospital.org/about/our-stories/

ERSEN ARSEVEN

Calvary Hospital took care of my beloved wife Susan over 21 years ago!



Susan

Why did you choose Calvary Hospital?

I wanted to take care of my wife at home. My primary concern was that if she fell down and got hurt, I would never be able to forgive myself. When I spoke with local hospice in Rockland County (that was just being established back then), they told me that they could do things to alleviate her pain if she falls and gets hurt, but they could not do much more than that. They suggested that I take her to Calvary Hospital to make her comfortable.

How did you meet your wife Susan?

I met my wife at the University of Pennsylvania in 1967 at a Halloween party. I used to run into her at times at the University Science Center as well. She led the University of Pennsylvania team that delivered the first automated circulation control and serials/periodicals catalog system in any major university library. I was a first-year graduate student from Turkey.

I received my master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1969, and went to Texas A&M to get my Ph.D. We got married in 1970; she also transferred to Texas A&M. She received her Ph.D. in Computer Science from Texas A&M in 1975. We moved to New York to work at the Medical Research Division of American Cyanamid located at the The Lederle Laboratories. We started working in the pharmaceutical industry in January 1975, right after we moved to New York.

When she was working for American Cyanamid's Medical Research Division, she completed the Executive MBA Program at Columbia University in 1981. She was extremely smart, but she was the most humble person I ever met.

What was your wife most passionate about?

She fought fiercely for women's equality. She was a wise and generous mentor to many people. She was also a dynamic force in advocating for women's leading roles in business.

Susan worked at American Cyanamid for 20 years. She started as a systems analyst with the Medical Research Division in 1975 and then became director of information services for the Agricultural Group in 1981. When Cyanamid was bought by American Home Products, she was offered a job at Union Camp Corporation. In her new job, she served as Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer of Union Camp Corporation until May of 1999, when the company was bought by International Paper. She traveled a lot for business.

When did Susan get sick?

In 1988 or '89, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She went for her yearly exam and they said she was good. Six months later, we discovered that she had stage 3 breast cancer. Susan opted for breast surgery and she fought the disease the whole time. I resigned from my position at Boehringer-
continued on page 7

continued from page 6

Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals in 1990 and devoted my time to help care for her. I still consulted, but my primary focus was to take care of her and arrange her medical care. Susan continued to work, and we got used to overcoming the problems. We had a wonderful life together.

In 2000, Susan's mother was visiting us at the time. When I came home one day, my mother-in-law told me that Susan was having problems remembering and she thought Susan had chemo brain (mental cloudiness or changes that can occur during, and after cancer treatment). We discovered that her brain was damaged because of the antibiotics that she was taking for a year. It destroyed the gray matter in her brain. There was nothing that could be done, and I did not know what to do.

When did she get admitted to Calvary?

Our oncologist recommended Calvary Hospital. The evaluation team came and she was admitted to Calvary on July 13, 2000. She stayed at Calvary for eight days on the third floor. One of the most memorable moments at Calvary was when I was talking to the admitting people on the first day and I said, "Pretty soon, it's going to be our 30th wedding anniversary and I want to bring champagne to celebrate with my wife." They said without hesitation that they would take care of the champagne and celebration, and they did.

Susan died three days after our 30th anniversary. Calvary called me and said that she was critical

and actively dying. I rushed to the hospital and she died in my presence at 5:05 pm. Susan still had her wedding ring on her finger and they took time to take the ring with the utmost care and give it to me. They were extremely thoughtful.

My experience with Calvary was special. I spent night and day at Calvary during the time of Susan's care. I remember they allowed the little kids to visit their grandparents that were near death. It was an unbelievably beautiful peaceful coexistence of life and death.



I have become an American citizen since I came to this country, and I have a sister still in Turkey. Dying with dignity in America is very difficult. Everyone should die with dignity and Calvary is one of those places where patients are allowed to die with dignity.

I still visit Calvary Hospital every year on July 21 for the anniversary of my wife's death to view the leaf that was placed in her memory on the Tree of Life.

What was your wife's moral legacy?

I learned from my wife to accept things as they come. She never asked, "Why did this happen to me?" She only asked me once if she was dying. She was very modest and felt it was important to help people without expecting anything in return. She was also a staunch supporter of women's equality.

One of the reasons we got married is because we both agreed that two people can never be happy together if the two people are not happy as individuals.

Calvary is one of those places where patients are allowed to die with dignity.



THANK YOU TO OUR FOUNDATION DONORS

Calvary is a blanket of comfort for our community, thanks to the support of the foundations that support Calvary's mission. Many foundations choose to support a particular program of care, such as bereavement support for adults, children and adolescents; palliative care education; or Calvary@Home. Behind every foundation are Trustees who have had a personal experience with *CalvaryCare*[®], or who understand the importance of our care. The following foundations have made grants of \$1,000 or more, which were received between June 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020.

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Your contributions support Calvary Hospital's special mission of providing care, comfort and compassion to over 6,000 patients and families. As a generous donor, your contribution is a meaningful tribute to the brave nurses and essential staff dedicated to carrying forth Calvary's mission to patients and families in need, in the hospital and in the field. Thank you to the families and friends who contributed to support Calvary in memory of their loved ones. [Listed below are Storrs Society Members, as of December 31, 2020.](#)

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CALVARY HOSPITAL'S 37TH ANNUAL AWARDS GALA

On Monday, December 14, 2020, Calvary Hospital held its 37th Annual Awards Gala in a virtual format, raising over \$900,000 to benefit our patients and families. The highlight of the Virtual Gala was a performance by the legendary Alan Menken, the Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony award-winning composer of Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty & the Beast*, *Aladdin*, *Broadway's Little Shop of Horrors*, *Sister Act* and much more.

With Sade Baderinwa and Ryan Field of WABC-TV's Eyewitness News serving as the evening's emcees, Calvary paid tribute to three distinguished honorees:

Khalil Barrage, Managing Director, Invus, was awarded The Calvary Medal in recognition of distinguished corporate and civic leadership.

Louise M. Parent, Retired Executive Vice President & General Counsel, American Express and Of Counsel, Clearly Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, was recognized with The Compatriot Award for a legacy of leadership and commitment to Calvary's mission of service. In addition to her many years as a member of the Calvary Fund Board, Ms. Parent has been a volunteer at both the Bronx Campus and The Dawn Greene Hospice in Manhattan.

Faye Menken Schneier and Leah Menken-Levenson accepted the inaugural Spirit of Family Award on behalf of the Menken Family, in appreciation of their partnership with Calvary.



Alan Menken



Khalil Barrage



Louise M. Parent



The Menken Family

Calvary salutes all our donors whose generosity during this uncertain time made our Virtual Gala a success.

Your generosity allows us to continue to advance our mission as the needs of providing health care in a safe environment to our community continue to change.

TO VIEW THE VIRTUAL AWARDS GALA & E-JOURNAL, VISIT: www.calvaryhospital.org/gala2020

MARY MURRAY

*When Sheila passed,
she took my heart with her*



Sheila
& MARY

What was childhood like with your sister?

My mother passed away when I was 5½ and my sister was 4. Our father couldn't take care of us, so we lived with my mom's sister's family. We lived in Manhattan, but moved to Rockaway Beach after we were adopted.

When did you become closer as sisters?

Sheila married her first husband in 1965, divorced, remarried in 1983, then divorced again in 1995. Wherever she lived, Brooklyn, Port Chester or Rye, we saw each other every weekend. She was very independent, but still very close to me.

When did Sheila get sick?

In 2010, after I quit my job, Sheila suggested that we move in together. We were both getting older and we could take care of each other. It was hard for both of us in the beginning because we were used to having our own space.

One night when Sheila came home from work, she told me that the doctor found a spot on her lungs – ground glass (Ground-glass opacities). It seemed manageable for a while. But then Sheila began to have back pain, lose weight, and complain about very sore arms.

Sheila decided to go to urgent care where the attending doctor told her she had cancer.

Then her pulmonary doctor confirmed stage-four lung cancer. When she told me that night, I made a commitment to direct all of my energy towards her care.

When did she go to Calvary Hospital?

Sheila had several surgeries and also received radiation. At one point, her oncologist said he did not see any new cancer cells. However, it became more difficult for Sheila to walk, and she got worse. She was in and out of the hospital.

On August 3, 2017, she was discharged from the hospital again and her attending doctor said there was nothing else he could do for her. He told her she was dying.

At first, I tried to care for her at home with the help from VNS, but it became more complicated. At one point, they suggested that I take her to Calvary Hospital.

Sheila was admitted to Calvary Hospital on August 11, 2017. Sheila was cared for at Calvary for over 11 weeks and there were times she wanted to go home. I wished I could have kept her at home. Even if I was provided with nurses 24 hours a day, it wouldn't have mattered. I couldn't provide the same care she received at Calvary.

When she was still lucid, Sheila said to me, "Everyone at Calvary treats me so well." I was so happy Sheila knew she was well taken care of.

CALVARY'S 17TH ANNUAL TRUSTS & ESTATES CONFERENCE

Nearly 300 of the area's top trusts and estates attorneys joined the virtual conference. This year's topic, "Ethics for Breakfast: Ethical Implications for Attorneys in the Gig Economy," proved to be a timely one due to continuing changes in the workplace related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The Honorable Nora S. Anderson, Surrogate, New York County returned as the moderator for an esteemed panel of experts, which included Mary P. O'Reilly, Esq., Partner, Meltzer Lippe; Lisa Solomon, Esq., Owner, Lisa Solomon Legal Research & Writing; Lori Sullivan, Esq., Counsel, Seward & Kissell LLP; and J. Richard Supple, Jr., Esq., Partner, Clyde & Co. LLP.

All attendees qualified to receive two CLE (Continuing Legal Education) credits in Ethics and Professionalism. The conference is organized by the Calvary Hospital Professional Advisors Council (PAC).



Special recognition must be extended to the generous sponsors and supporters of this year's conference, our distinguished panel and Conference Co-Chairs (pictured top l to r): **Erin Gilmore Smith, Esq.**, Senior Vice President, Senior Trust Officer, Bank of America Private Bank; **Gerard F. Joyce, Esq.**, National Head of Trusts and Estates, Managing Director and Deputy General Trust Counsel, Fiduciary Trust Company International; (pictured bottom center) **Leah D. Hokenson, Esq.**, Managing Director, Baldwin Brothers LLC.



MAKE A DONATION ONLINE AT: fund.calvaryhospital.org

UPCOMING EVENTS



Monday, August 2, 2021



THE SOCIETY OF 1899

Calvary Hospital was founded in 1899 by dedicated volunteers with supporting gifts and bequests dating back to the turn of the century. The Society of 1899 honors their legacy of compassionate care for those most in need. For more information on becoming a member or other planned giving opportunities, please contact **Elizabeth Edds Kougasian, Esq.**, Director of Major and Planned Gifts at **718-518-2080** or via email at ekougasian@calvaryhospital.org.

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