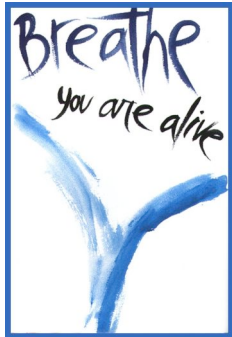


PLEASE NOTE:

This email is completely and totally
unofficial/unauthorized
by CPMC or anyone on staff at the Center.



Many thanks to all who have sent news and photos. This is all the news we have right now, but expect that we will hear additional good news – with details sometime very soon.

And: You will want to check Jay's site for the updated support group schedule and to use the links to archived newsletters – and to read the Fall 2007 New York Presbyterian Transplant Newsletter.

<http://www.lackritz.net>



- 2007 TX Picnic at Tallman Mtn State Park
1. All Heart & Lung TX Recipients Attending
 2. Lung TX Folks Attending
 3. The "Boys" - Jay, Walter, Jim, Tony
 4. Walter -Lookin' Good!
 5. Shelly, Fred, George, Bobbie, Jay
 6. Susan & Jay
 7. Walter with his "Support Group!"



And a great time was had by all!

[Use the zoom function on your pdf software to enlarge photo.]

[Interesting News](#)

The VIAspire Liquefier: The freedom to say “yes”

Compatible with any OSD-oxygen concentrator, the VIAspire™ Liquefier creates a daily supply of liquid oxygen in the patient’s home. By maintaining two liters of liquid oxygen that is always available, the VIAspire liquefier frees patients from the constraints of a delivery schedule or time-consuming cylinder refills.

Liquid oxygen has long been the preferred modality for patients requiring oxygen therapy. Lightweight and long-lasting, it enables patients to maintain their quality of life by making it possible to go out and enjoy activities.

<http://www.inspiredtechnologiesinc.com/c2.html>

[Article forwarded by Kathleen:](#)

Hollywood discouraging organ donors

By Alan Cochran

San Gabriel Valley Tribune

MAYBE this has happened to a relative or a friend of yours - someone who urgently needed a kidney, liver or other vital organ to survive a terminal disease. That person's name was placed on local and national waiting lists for those organs. But the organ never became available - despite the fact that potential donors were plentiful. And as a result, your friend or relative died.

Who was at fault here? Should you blame those potential donors - faceless people who had not agreed to have their organs recovered in the event they became brain-dead or suffered heart stoppage?

No. Instead you should look a few miles west to the place where movies and TV shows are made. Although Hollywood is usually kind to the medical community, I've always felt that it always shows organ donation and transplanting in a bad light.

This is deeply troubling to me as an executive at OneLegacy, the organization that coordinates the donation and transplanting of organs in most of Southern California. These efforts paid off last year, enabling OneLegacy to arrange life-saving transplants for a record 1,300 people in Southern California.

That number, though, fell far short of the need; nearly 10,000 people were, and are, on OneLegacy's waiting lists for vital organs. But our efforts are greatly hindered by dramatized falsehoods about organ donation in movies and on TV.

Some might say that my involvement in this field has made me overly sensitive to anything negative about it on the big or the small screen. Now, though, independent research proves that I'm not exaggerating the problem.

According to a report just issued by Purdue University, organ donation was portrayed in more than 80 TV episodes in 2004 and 2005, but in none of those instances was it presented in an accurate or positive light. Even more disturbing was the Purdue researchers' finding that these inaccuracies stopped people from registering as organ donors.

In the new ABC TV series "Heartland," the procurement coordinator - the person who obtains permission from next-of-kin to have an organ donated - appears to work for the transplant center. The logical inference to be drawn from this depiction is that the transplant center has something to gain as a result of the coordinator's efforts.

That's totally inaccurate and misleading. Procurement transplant coordinators (PTCs) are all employees of the local organ recovery organization. They are sent to hospitals to monitor the condition of terminally ill patients and, when a patient dies, to seek permission from the next of kin to donate the patient's organs. The hospital has nothing to gain from donation of organs.

I hasten to add that I don't lay all the blame on Hollywood for the fact that demand for donated organs far exceeds the supply. Much of this gap stems simply from misconceptions, misunderstanding and a general lack of awareness about what's involved in the donation of organs and the designation of donors.

I will also acknowledge that there have been abuses of and negligence in the donation and transplant process; one prominent Southern California medical center actually turned down donated organs although ailing patients awaited them. But that situation has been resolved and is unlikely to occur again.

We at OneLegacy are working closely with the movie and TV industry to promote greater understanding and prevent further inaccurate portrayal of the donation process. And we are urging employers to encourage their workers to give their consent to organ donation by having pink dots put on their driver licenses the next time they come up for renewal. This effort has gained momentum during the past year, and now more than a million licensed motorists have signed up as donors.

But that's just one of every 24 licensed drivers in the state, so we have a lot of work left to do. Success in this effort will save thousands of lives, keep families whole and strengthen communities.

Alan Cochran, a resident of Altadena, is director of Quality Systems at OneLegacy.

[Ed. Note: We don't endorse products or viewpoints. We merely report.]

Group News:

Phil S. reports: I'm doing great. I'll say I've recovered quite well since surgery. I've gained about 25lbs (I had lost 30), so I'm close to my old weight, which feels good. I'm exercising daily and improving every week. I have been cleared to return to work next week, and I'm quite excited about it. I find myself quite busy these days. Prior to transplant, I had several small "around the house" projects that just got put on hold. Now I'm able to get to them, and with going back to work only a week away, I find myself having no time! That's fine by me. I like being busy. Life is just sooo much easier now that I am able to breath!

Dave and DeeDee have checked in: We've had the wildest summer yet with company from the week before Memorial Day to the week after Labor Day. On two occasions we had seventeen people here. Even though we were busy, each weekend was worth it with all the little people running around. I find it hard to believe just how much two and four year olds know and how well they can communicate.

And we hear from Gary: Well, last week went in for a bronc on Wednesday, and headed back in Thursday for the stomach surgery. It was a little rough the first couple days, and they had me on morphine, and then pain pills {big time for home}. I was told that they found a lung infection during the bronc. So, guess what? More pills! The main thing is that I'm still doing what I want, within reason. Last week was a long one, but it sounds like Humpty Dumpty is getting back together again.



And an opinion from Terry!: It's getting to be time for the annual transplant holiday get-together, so start thinking about it. [See actual invitation below!!]

Now, some of us who are post-tx are already trying to come up with a good reason why we simply can't get there this year. Most of that thinking has to do with the fact that we:

1. have gained a lot of weight/lost a lot of weight
2. have lost a lot of hair/added unwanted hair
3. have such shakey hands that we drop food when we eat
4. have bruises that we think look ugly from the Prednisone.

You know what? Suck it up! Get over it. People who care about you, [and everyone in this group cares!!] they see the inside of you. They just don't even see the outside anymore. They are so glad to see you, and so happy that you are still with the group, that they won't even remember what you wear!

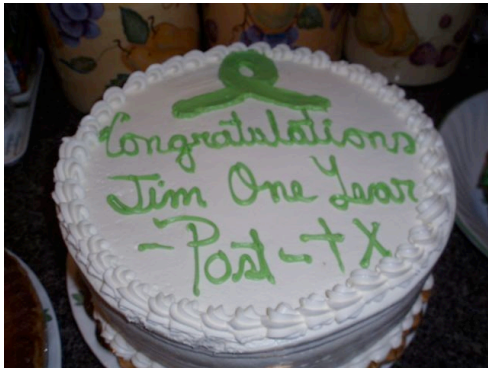
I have gained weight. My hair has gotten thin. And all my t-shirts have coffee spots down the front from my shaking. [But, I am pretty sure that none of you think that Stan beats me, so you just over-look the bruises.]

I will be at the party! In case you don't recognize me: I am the one wearing a sheet, and a ballcap, and eggnog spilled down the front of me. [You probably won't be able to see any bruises, unless I kick up my heels and dance. And I just might!]

And ferheavensake, when you put your name on your nametag, please write in BIG LETTERS. A lot of us have "Prograf" memory! We know you. We know your name. It's just not quite there when we actually *need it!*

See y'all there!

And we want to take a minute to wish our good buddy, Jim H. a happy anniversary! Jim and Bobbie celebrated well –



That's all we've got for now –
Hope to hear from you with news –
You know where to find us –
~T, 10/31/07

Stan & Terry Lopata
PO Box 497
Clinton NY 13323
315-853-3342



Happy
Holidays

Support Group Holiday Celebration
Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2007 – 4-6 p.m.

Faculty Club Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center
Presbyterian Bldg, 4th Floor

Each patient can be accompanied
by no more than 2 guests.

Please RSVP by Nov. 27th to Barrett Gray
212-305-6266 OR e-mail at adg9021@wyp.org