January 9, 2017

Happy New Year!

Many of you have heard that 2017 is A Year of Kindness in Juneau, as designated by the Juneau Police Department. “According to the non-profit called Random Acts, Juneau is the only community in the nation that has taken this on,” notes JPD Patrol Lieutenant Kris Sell. In addition to encouraging individual acts of kindness, community entities including the high schools and Lemon Creek Correctional Center are committing to “Kindness Surge” weeks.

Acts of kindness examples could be everything from distributing healthy snacks at the mall to scraping ice off people’s car windows to writing encouragement letters to patients. “Things that are personal and convey caring,” said Sell.

Sell also suggests keeping a Kindness Log. “The goal is to see if we can prove that kindness can improve quality of life, and can that be statistically shown.”

Bartlett Regional Hospital is gearing up to participate in the Year of Kindness through the Employee Engagement Committee. The question for Bartlett is whether to commit to one week as an institution, or several weeks throughout the year by department. If your department is interested in participating, please contact Toni Petrie or Katie Bausler. And stay tuned for a Kindness Surge planning meeting.

For more information about the Juneau initiative, see this Random Acts webpage: http://www.randomacts.org/news/juneau-year-kindness/

Chasing Zero Celebration!

Mark your calendars for an Ice Cream Social, Wednesday, January 11 at 2:00 p.m. in the Bartlett Cafe. We’ll be celebrating former Infection Preventionist Kim Vermedal and departments’ 2016 “Chasing Zero” Award.

Bartlett Regional Hospital was one of ten Alaska hospitals to receive the award from Mountain-Pacific Quality Health. “I am thrilled to accept this award,” said Vermedal. “Zero infections are what we chase every day.” Vermedal noted that she accepted the award on behalf of the BRH team. “This award is an achievement and celebration for all of the staff at BRH who work every day to prevent hospital acquired infections.”
**I.T. News**

I am pleased to inform you that John Lynch will be the Interim Director of Information Technology. Please join me in welcoming John to Bartlett.

John, who began working Jan. 4, will work with Martha, Max, the I.T. team and Senior Leaders to bring additional I.T. expertise to Bartlett. A Phoenix resident, he has worked in I.T. for his entire career. In addition to leading his own company, John recently built the I.T. systems for a new hospital in Arizona. He will be working alongside with Martha and Max in the I.T. Department. His contact information is: 796-8459 jlynch@bartletthospital.org

-Alan C Ulrich, Chief Financial Officer

**Compliance Corner**

**OIG 101 (part 2)**

**More on the Office of Inspector General (OIG):**

**How do they define a Compliance Program?**

“Fundamentally, compliance efforts are designed to establish a culture within a hospital that promotes prevention, detection, and resolution of instances of conduct that do not conform to Federal and State law, and Federal, State and private payor health care program requirements, as well as the hospital’s ethical and business policies. In practice, the compliance program should effectively articulate and demonstrate the organization’s commitment to the compliance process. The existence of benchmarks that demonstrate implementation and achievements are essential to any effective compliance program. Eventually, a compliance program should become part of the fabric of routine hospital operations.”

http://www.hcca-info.org/Portals/0/PDFs/Resources/Compliance_Today/preview.pdf

**Bartlett Hospital Compliance Hotline:** 796-8618

-Denise Plano MHA MSN RN, Director of Quality, Compliance Officer

**Shout Outs!**

The Quality Department would like to acknowledge the following staff for their commitment to safe patient care:

John Fortin
Dr. Nate Piemann
Greta Wade
Pedro Senarillos EVS

**NEW EMPLOYEES!**

**January 3, 2017**

Helen Hixson – PRN II, Obstetrics – Bartlett Beginnings

Donna Rasmussen – PRN III, Mental Health Unit

Tiffany Johnson – Residential Aide II, Rainforest Recovery Center

Chief Behavioral Health Officer Sally Schneider accepts a check for Psychiatric Telemedicine from Bartlett Foundation Director Maria Uchytil
Fleece Vests – It’s still chilly out there! HR has cozy bright blue vests for only $10 each. We have a variety of sizes available (S-3XL).

Juneau Community Health Fair: “SAVE THE DATE”

“SAVE THE DATE” for the next Juneau Community Health Fair, sponsored by Bartlett Regional Hospital working in tandem with Alaska Health Fair Inc.

The date will be Saturday, March 18, 2017 at Thunder Mountain High School from 8AM – 12Noon. Last year’s health fair was a big hit. We had over 250 participants and almost 100 volunteers and exhibitors! The change of venue to TMHS revitalized the event and was enthusiastically received by the public. Juneau really showed up.

Now is the time to write that date in your calendar and ask your department head for the day off so you can participate. Remember RNs, volunteering is a means by which you can advance on the clinical ladder. RNs can participate in drawing blood, taking blood pressures, partaking in the exit interviews by answering questions about health issues or you can participate in a non-medical area if you wish. Hospital employees who are not clinical staff are also needed in the important areas of registration, meet and greet, set-up and take down, staffing snack areas and other jobs.

If you would like to be an exhibitor, I would invite you to do so. Share a theme from your department. Last year the Emergency Department did bicycle safety, our Nutritional Services department educated the public on the importance of vitamin D and our diabetes educator was present as well. Please take a moment to consider becoming an exhibitor and sharing your expertise.

Department heads: consider coming out as an exhibitor or mention it to one of your staff. Call me at 8918 on Tuesdays and we can talk about it if you have questions, or shoot me an email lstats@bartletthospital.org

If you already know you want to volunteer, do so online by filling out a volunteer or exhibitor’s application with Alaska Health Fair

See you in March!
-Laura Stats RN

Welcome First Baby of 2017!

The first of baby of 2017 is Matthew James Albrecht. Matthew was born just two minutes before midnight, January 1, 2017 at the Bartlett Beginnings Family Birth Center. Matthew made his entrance not long after his parents arrived at the hospital, weighing in at 6 pounds 9 ounces and measuring 19 inches long. Congratulations to Annie and Greg Albrecht (JDHS Class of 2002). Matthew joins siblings and Bartlett Beginnings alumni Eliza, 5 and Oliver, 3, at home in the Juneau Valley.

Matthew is being held by Sara Parker, RN House Supervisor who was also born on New Year's Day!! Happy Birthday to both of these lovely people!
When people ask me what kind of legacy I want to leave, I say, "I want to be remembered like a George Brown… he’s who I want to be when I grow up."
-Amy Dressel, MD

Beloved Glacier Pediatrics pediatrician George Brown passed away December 14, 2016 in Anchorage. His wife, Dr. Carolyn Brown, children Benjamin and Rachel, grand-daughter Eleanor and families are mourning the loss of their beloved husband, father and grandfather.

Dr. Brown was an exceptional man and physician; a huge force not only in Juneau's pediatric care, but across the state of Alaska and other parts of the world. Dr. Brown was an award-winning voice for the young and the mistreated. Dr. Brown was a strong outstanding vocal advocate for those in need, for all women and children and for fathers. Numerous programs were started and supported by his passion for change and wellness. He won numerous awards around the state and nationwide and wrote several papers, speeches, and articles.

Dr. Brown started the Southeast Alaska Family Evaluation Child Advocacy Center, the Fathers’ Café’, helped start (and maintain, along with several community agencies) a program for families with young children experiencing stress (JUMPP), was integral to the workings of the Fetal Alcohol Diagnostic Clinic, was a fierce advocate for the League of Woman voters, on multiple boards, started a fund to help young Kenyans interested in medical education (after missionary work there), ran over 70 marathons in his lifetime, wrote letters to the editor and weekly letters to the President, and, always had a joke ready to tell. He penned several thoughtful and provocative My Turn editorials published in the Juneau Empire. “In 2016, what we know trumps who we know” was the title of the last one, published in August.

Dr. Brown is remembered as a great friend and mentor and will be thoroughly missed by many. He is grieved by his family, friends, community, coworkers and patients alike.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Alaska-Kenya Health Scholarship Fund of Women & Children's Health Associates at 1640 2nd Street, Douglas, Alaska 99824.

We are lucky to have lived and worked beside him and look forward to continuing his work and invite you to do the same. He was one of the most kind, giving and patient people that ever walked this earth.

George’s family will celebrate his life with friends and loved ones at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, 2017 at Northern Light United Church in Juneau.

The latest issue of Bartlett Regional Hospital’s quarterly magazine House Calls has been sent to Juneau residents and is being distributed around the Bartlett Campus and to health care facilities throughout the community. Featured original content includes articles on the Bartlett Medical Oncology Center and Just for Dad’s group.
**Early Spring Issue Preview: Hospitalist Program**

The next issue of *House Calls* includes this feature on the new Hospitalist program.

**Hospitalist Program is a Go**

As of the start of this year, physicians are not only on-call, but on duty at Bartlett Regional Hospital 24/7. Popular at larger hospitals in the Lower 48, what’s known as a Hospitalist Service provides a physician to care for those patients admitted who do not have a local attending physician. The hospitalist can also admit patients in place of their regular primary care physician.

Dr. Mimi Benjamin spearheaded the program. Seven years ago Benjamin and her husband Brian, who is also a physician, arrived in Juneau from North Carolina, seeking a simpler life and the Alaskan dream. Mimi Benjamin had worked as a doctor at the University of North Carolina and for the state health care quality improvement organization. To Bartlett Regional Hospital she brought a fresh perspective and an eye for improving efficiency. She worked with the medical staff Quality Improvement Committee and helped implement a new electronic medical records program.

Then she took on integration of a hospitalist program, which she says is a win for both patients and doctors. Patients may be admitted sooner, while doctors spend less time traveling back and forth between their office and the hospital. This is especially important in medical emergencies.

“Before, if there was a problem the emergency room doctor was the only doctor always in house,” said Benjamin. “So the emergency room doctor would have to run up to the floor.”

“It’s also helpful to have us there at nighttime; things happen at 2 in the morning and instead of being two hours away we are 2 minutes away.” Hospitalists work the same shifts as nurses, 7 a.m. to 7 pm or 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

“The hospitalist is also available to the nurses and case management,” Benjamin went on. “The presence is really helpful. So for example, if some paperwork needs to be filled out or oxygen ordered, the case manager doesn’t have to fax to a doctor’s office and wait for a response, because the doctor is right there, working as part of the team of health care providers.”

“We greatly appreciate the hospitalists’ participation in daily rounds, engagement in clinical documentation improvement, and greater availability to meet patient needs as they arise,” said Case Management Director Jeannette O Lacey Dunn. “The treatment team is able to develop strong working relationships with providers who are in the hospital on a regular basis, which enhances the continuum and provision of patient care.”

Chief Executive Officer Chuck Bill sees several valuable benefits to hospitalist program. “It assures we always have a physician specializing in inpatient care in the hospital and available to meet patient needs. In-house physicians can respond faster to urgent patient care situations, potentially avoiding complications. In addition, a core group of physicians can become very familiar with the inpatient resources and processes at Bartlett, improving efficiency and care. As a side benefit, primary physicians using the hospitalist service won’t have to interrupt or shorten their office hours to provide care in the hospital, allowing more daily patient office visits.”
“All of the doctors in Juneau are on-board for having a hospitalist system,” said Benjamin. “Each practice has decided to participate in different ways. I think it will be very transitional over the next few years. Over time we’ll become our own department.”

Benjamin notes there is one specialty the hospitalists won’t be involved with. “We won’t be delivering babies.”

For the past half dozen years, Physical Therapy aide and clerk George Kuhar has been celebrating his January 5 natal anniversary with a Sunday evening concert at the Rookery Café in downtown Juneau. This year’s event fell on January 8. George accompanies himself on piano, guitar and harmonica. He performs original tunes with heartwarming and soul soaring feeling and passion. And at some point, the audience regales George with their rendition of Happy Birthday.

In his other life, George and his wife Bridget make music and produce albums with their local favorite band, Playboy Spaceman. His 2012 Rookery concert was made into an album: http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/georgekuhar
Check out Playboy Spaceman music here: https://playboyspaceman.bandcamp.com/