

DECEMBER 2024

2
NEW HIRES/ ANNIVERSARIES

3
INFLUENZA PREVALENT

4
HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING

5
COMMUNITY CHAMPION
AWARD

6-8
HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

9
FOUNDATION NEWS

10
SAVE THE DATES

11
VOICE OF OUR PATIENTS



HOLIDAY MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we enter this holiday season, I want to take this moment to express my deepest gratitude for each of you—our incredible team of healthcare champions. You are our heart and soul, demonstrating unwavering dedication, compassion and resilience. No matter the challenge faced, you rise to that challenge, helping us fulfill our mission of providing the highest level of care to our community.

Because of you, our patients receive excellent care but also the kindness and support our patients deserve. Whether in quiet moments or during the busiest of times, you touch lives and bring hope to all those you care for. Your work is invaluable and is deeply appreciated by me, senior management, and our Board of Trustees.

On behalf of Senior Administration, I want you to know we are so grateful to have you on our team. We hope you find moments of rest, warmth, and peace during the hustle and bustle of this upcoming holiday season.

Wishing you and your loved ones a holiday and a New Year filled with gratitude, love and joy,

Mark E. Geller, MD, FACR
President & CEO of Montefiore Nyack Hospital

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to the following employees who celebrated a milestone work anniversary this month. We applaud their dedication and thank them for their care and service to the Hospital!

5 YEARS

Eli Brown

Amy Burgh

Julie Constant

Martino Desir

James Dowling

Karif Fahie

Nicole Gorritz

Daniel Greeley

Omar Hasan

Marie Pecora

Jaimee Stern

Steven Tenner

20 YEARS

Stacy Weiss

25 YEARS

Rosemary Reda

40 YEARS

Jacqueline Watkins

10 YEARS

Ransford Aryeh

Mark Geller, MD

Edwin Gomez

Jacob Krain

Imelda Nacar-Dumlao

Liza Skrypack

WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest employees.

- **Michelle Alvarez Espinoza**, Host Hostess, Food & Nutrition
- **Samantha Anderson**, RN, Behavioral Health
- **Joeanna-Marie Barnett**, Chemical Dependency Counselor, Recovery Center
- **Andres Cancel**, Radiation Therapy Aide, Radiation Oncology
- **Elias Chicaiza Ramirez**, Cook, Food & Nutrition Services
- **Roxanne Coello**, Cardiac Ultrasound Technologist, Ultrasound
- **Maureen DeKonty**, Secretary 9, Center for Learning and Development
- **Madonna Fanous**, Medication Documentation Specialist, Pharmacy
- **Curstine Jessie Guevarra**, RN, Surgical ICU
- **Myriame Jean**, Patient Safety Attendant, Float
- **Allison Kahlke**, Cardiac Ultrasound Technologist, Ultrasound
- **Suzelyn Lezin**, PCA, Behavioral Health
- **Alexandra Manigo**, PCA, Surgical ICU
- **Michael Masullo**, Patient Access Coordinator, Patient Access
- **KelliAnne McLoughlin**, RN, Infusion Center
- **Jessica Merlino-Lieto**, RN, Pediatrics
- **Chase Patterson**, Host Hostess, Food & Nutrition
- **Dalila Perry**, Phlebotomist, Laboratory
- **Hector Ruiz**, Social Worker Care Manager, Care Management
- **Tyreak Rush**, Environmental Services Aide, Environmental Services
- **Sophia Stuart**, Cardiac Ultrasound Technologist, Ultrasound
- **Ariane Thothongkum**, RN, PACU
- **Ryan Thomas**, Patient Access Coordinator, Patient Access
- **Jason Torres**, Radiation Therapist, Radiation Oncology
- **Clayne Williams**, Patient Safety Attendant, Float
- **Javon Williams**, Health & Safety Services Technician, West Nyack Ambulatory Surgery Center

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

Flu season peaks between December and February. It is time to address your influenza vaccine status: Consent/Decline or provide outside documentation to OHS. Flu vaccinations are available for all employees in OHS, Monday – Friday, from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

For those declining the vaccine, please click on the following link to obtain the NYSDOH declination form and submit the completed form to OHS.
https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/toolkits/docs/hospital_pg154.pdf.

Please visit the Human Resources office or call us at ext. 2155 if you have any questions.

MONTEFIORE NYACK EARNS HIGH PERFORMING AWARD

Montefiore Nyack Hospital was named a 2025 High Performing hospital for **Maternity Care** for the second consecutive year by U.S. News & World Report, the global authority in hospital rankings and consumer advice. This is the top award a hospital can earn as part of U.S. News' Best Hospitals for Maternity Care annual study. Congratulations to [Montefiore Nyack](#) and our Highland Medical physicians, midwives and laborists who provide exceptional obstetric care at the hospital under the leadership of Dr. Maria Emerson!



NYS DOH ANNOUNCES INFLUENZA IS PREVALENT IN THE STATE

All Healthcare personnel that have not received their Influenza (FLU) vaccine for FLU Season 2024-2025 must wear a surgical/procedural mask in areas where patients are present.

Patient areas include, but are not limited to:

- Patient rooms
- Nursing stations
- Patient hallways
- Lobby entrance / gift shop
- Office Practices
- Admitting
- Outpatient areas (radiology, pre-op testing, pulmonary function testing, sleep study)
- Home Care patient visits
- Café

For healthcare personnel who have received their FLU vaccine, please make sure your FLU vaccine sticker is visible on your ID.

If you received your FLU vaccine elsewhere, please bring a copy of your vaccine information to Occupational Health so they are able to update your record and provide you with an updated FLU sticker for your ID.

If you have not received your FLU vaccine, please consider. It's not too late.

[2024-12-18_flu_prevalent.pdf](#)

[Regulation for Prevention of Influenza Transmission by Healthcare and Residential Facility and Agency Personnel \(ny.gov\)](#)

HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING

On Monday, December 2nd, Hospital employees, Senior Administration, representatives from the Hospital's Board of Trustees and local community members braved the frigid temperatures to gather in the Gazebo to watch the lighting of the Hospital's Christmas tree.

The event was even more festive with a special performance by local musicians performing a medley of holiday songs and carols.

After a brief countdown, Dr. Mark Geller, president and CEO, lit the nine-foot-tall tree decorated with white lights and ornaments.

The crowd enjoyed donuts and hot chocolate provided by Salonnière Coffee Bar, courtesy of Northern Services Group. If you enjoyed the refreshments, we encourage you to stop by Salonnière located at 79 South Broadway in downtown Nyack.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Special thanks to Girl Scout Troop 267 in Warwick, who assisted in assembling patient comfort kits. These kits contain personal hygiene items for patients to feel good and maintain their self-care routine during their hospital stay.



HOME CARE MONTH

During National Home Care and Hospice Month in November, our Home Care team honored **Leslie Meyer** during their Home Care Month Celebration. Mrs. Meyer provides home care to her beloved son Joshua.

Julie Enright Commene, RN, Home Care, gave this glowing praise about Leslie's caregiving abilities:



"Leslie has great strength, courage and confidence to care for her son. She is the voice for her son. She takes each day as it comes and thinks outside the box. While Josh received home care services, Leslie was willing to learn and followed through on her son's care. She made a difficult thing look easy."

Congratulations to Leslie on this well-deserved recognition. Special thanks to Montefiore Nyack's Home Care team for their year-round care and caregiver



STAFF RETIREMENT

Congratulations to the following employee who recently retired!

Congratulations to **Marion Shakespeare**, Administrative Associate, who recently retired at the end of November after 24 years and 7 months of service. We wish her well and thank her for her service to the Hospital!

ENDING THE YEAR ON A POSITIVE NOTE

Special thanks to the Employee Assistance Program for its "Positive Psychology" submission!

Positive thinking and perceptions enhance our life satisfaction while holding onto negatives, such as anger and bitterness, which undermine our well-being. Positive Psychology focuses on strengths and positive emotions, enabling us to thrive and achieve a sense of fulfillment.

Want to put it into practice? Try these simple exercises:

Reverse the focus from negative to positive. Notice your thoughts and replace negative with positive thoughts.

Develop a language of strength. Identify and talk about positive qualities, emotions and personal strengths in yourself and in others.

Practice your strengths. Those who use their strengths regularly function better in life.

Build strategies that encourage hope. It will help in dealing with adversity and overcoming challenges.

If you would like to know more about the power of positive thinking or the principles of positive psychology, contact the EAP at **845-638-8880** or e-mail us at EAP@montefiorenyack.org.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Holiday Party in the Main Cafe on December 11, 2024.



HOLIDAY DECOR



UGLY SWEATER DAY



FOUNDATION NEWS

THANK YOU

#GIVINGTUESDAY DONORS

Special Thanks to the Borelli Family

Vincent & Bernadette Abbatecola
Tasha Acevedo
Paul and Mary Adler Charitable Fund for Good
Allette Bastien
In Memory of Madlyn Borelli
Catherine Bove
Margaret Bravo
Craig Burgess
Yadira Castro
Dr. Azfar & Fadiyah Chak
Karen Coughlin
Stephen & Renata Coyle
Rose McAllister Croke
In Memory of Kay & Bob Cushman
Kristin DeLorenzo
Tanya & Jay Drake
Dr. Howard & Leslie Feldfogel
Dr. Edward Fisher
Dr. Lee Fleischer
Ana Garcia

Karina Garcia
Dr. Mark & Trish Geller
Richard & Lori Goldman
Helen Hayes-Perkins
Allan Hirsch
Mark Jacobs
Florence Joubert
Herschel Kanter
Dr. Christopher Langston
Eric Lindner
In Memory of Cary Lynch
Lauren Malone
In Honor of Nancy McLee
Linda Mezzasalma
Shaleeza Mohamed
In Memory of Richard Murphy
Patricia Orlak
Guido Porcelli
Ronald Ratigan
Dr. John Richmond
Adlher Rodriguez

Heather Sabatelli
In Memory of Anthony Schiano
Tara Shapiro
Cathy Shea & Terry Allerton
In Memory of Mui-Fun &
Sui Chau Shum
Eneas Soares
Susanne Stone
Linda Taff
Beth Teich
Eileen Thiesing
Sabrina Torres
Denis Troy
Robert & Elizabeth Van Cura
Robert & Marion Van Pelt
In Memory of Iluminada Velazquez
LuAnn Weis
Venita Whidbee-Jordan
Karen Wolf
Elizabeth Zito

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★ macy's



Macy's Holiday Market



Montefiore | Nyack

SAVE THE DATES

Pre-Chanukah Celebration

Monday, December 23, 2024

3:00 p.m.

Montefiore Nyack will host a pre-Chanukah celebration on **Monday, December 23rd at 3:00 p.m.** in the hospital's main lobby. Rabbi Chaim Z. Ehrenreich, Director of Chabad of the Nyacks, will officiate the ceremony with songs and a menorah lighting to celebrate the start of Chanukah later in the week. Beginning on the evening of Wednesday, December 26th through Thursday, January 2nd, one candle will be lit each day for eight nights. Chanukah is a celebration of the power of light and a reminder that a tiny flame can banish a roomful of darkness. We hope those who celebrate have a happy, healthy and meaningful Chanukah.

Transamerica Retirement Education

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Transamerica is currently handling retirement education via phone appointments only. To schedule a one-on-one virtual consultation, please call 319-355-3534. You can also click on [MAKE AN APPOINTMENT](#) to register for an appointment. As a reminder, you can always access your Transamerica retirement plan account online at www.transamerica.com.

COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD

Nominations are being accepted for The Richard Kohlhausen Community Champion Award through the end of January 2025.

This is open to all staff. We honor Dick's outstanding contributions and recognize the positive change and improvements he made in the lives of others by bestowing the Richard L. Kohlhausen Community Champion Award to a Montefiore Nyack Team member who, like Dick, is effecting change for the community.

Whether you serve meals to the homeless, volunteer at a not-for-profit organization, organize community clean-ups or connect with our community's needs in another way, we want to hear from you.

Nominations can be made by an individual or on another's behalf. The winner will be announced and presented with the award at the June 2025 Annual Board of Trustees meeting. Download forms from the Employee section of the website. Please sign, date, and bring the form to the Human Resources Department or email it to Norma Mateo-Liatsis, SHRM-CP, Senior Human Resources Coordinator, at nmateoliat@montefiorennyack.org.

https://www.montefiorennyack.org/sites/default/files/Richard%20Kohlhausen%20Community%20Champion%20Award_Nomination%20Form.pdf

DIABETES EDUCATION PROGRAM

In January, Montefiore Nyack Hospital will offer a Diabetes Education Program for adults with prediabetes or at risk for type 2 diabetes. Recruitment is underway for interested participants who meet the eligibility criteria for this free program. Participants will meet once a week with a registered dietitian from the Community Health and Wellness Department to improve their food choices, increase physical activity and learn coping skills to promote weight loss and reduce the risk of developing type 2 diabetes. To register for the upcoming Diabetes Education Program or check your eligibility, call the Community Health and Wellness Department at 845-348-2004.

SAVE *the* DATES

2025 FUNDRAISING EVENTS

30 MAR

NATIONAL DOCTORS' DAY

5 MAY

30th ANNUAL Northeastern Anesthesia & Montefiore Nyack Hospital Medical Staff GOLF CLASSIC

25 OCT

4th ANNUAL RIDES & STRIDES

2 DEC

#GIVINGTUESDAY

Montefiore | Nyack

FOUNDATION

THE VOICE OF OUR PATIENTS

The Patient Experience is about being a caregiver and ensuring patients and families feel safe and confident in the care provided. Thank you to the caregivers acknowledged below. Congratulations to the units and departments they represent and the caregivers they work beside. Remember, at the end of the day, we are all caregivers.

- “I want to commend the service and professionalism of your staff at Montefiore Nyack recently. I will not get into what led up to my diagnosis but **The Hematology Oncology Center** under the care of **Dr. Daniel Cole** who immediately recognized my illness and took immediate steps to address it. I am an outpatient dealing with my illness. In closing, I can’t tell you how impressed I was by my whole encounter at your facility. I want to thank you and the staff who helped me in my time of need.”
- “I had a great experience with the staff of Radiology while undergoing MRI. Every part of my visit was wonderful. I received great care and attention.”
- “**Dr. Maria Emerson (OBS-GYN)** is sensitive and has excellent bed manners. As a new patient, I was nervous, but she was so calm and understanding that made me at ease. Her staff is also wonderful. I recommend her 100%.”
- “I needed a non-emergency x-ray—no appointments were necessary. I walked into the hospital at about 1:10 p.m. on a weekday and walked out of the hospital with x-rays completed at about 1:35 p.m. I thank **Ashley Mendez, clerical coordinator** and **Heather Spencer-Smith, radiology associate**, for very prompt and courteous administrative work, and **Susan George, Radiologic Technologist**, who took the x-rays, for prompt service with clear instructions. I felt like I was in a private clinic. Thanks again to all.”



- “I did a CAT scan, and everyone involved in my care was wonderful. The nurse and technicians were courteous caring and kind, specifically **Sally Francis** and **John Scala, Special Procedures Technologists** in Radiology. I am very satisfied and happy.”
- “The staff was kind and courteous, and **Dr. Lawrence Simon** is an excellent doctor. I have been with him for a long time. My concerns are his concerns, and he takes time with you. My wait time was not long. The facility was very clean, especially the restroom.”
- “I had hand surgery with **Dr. Alan Gotesman** at the Montefiore Einstein Comprehensive Orthopedic and Spine Center at Crossfield in West Nyack. Everyone on the staff was great. The timing was exact, and I am feeling good. Also, timely follow up making sure I was okay. I highly recommend.”
 - “The nurses, doctors and other staff were incredibly nice and always introduced themselves and their role in the procedure. Everything went on time and no waiting.”
- “I had an EGD (upper endoscopy) done recently. All the staff, nurses and doctors I met were very friendly and knowledgeable. I was well-informed before and after the procedure. The entire experience was great!”
- “I went for a mammogram at **The Breast Center**. Many thanks to Teresa! **Teresa Whitney**, a mammography technologist, was exceptionally gentle and professional.”