

Heartline

A Publication of Kevin Guest House... "The little house with a big heart" | Spring 2010



Jack and Mary Jean Scudder

From My Point of View

By Mary Jean Scudder

Moving to Buffalo, even temporarily, was not part of our life plan. My husband and I have three sons and have been settled in Central New York since 1988. We are familiar with the downstate area, with the Capitol District, with the North Country; Buffalo just wasn't in our sphere.

Our son Jack was diagnosed in 2005 at age 15 with aplastic anemia. Aplastic anemia is essentially bone marrow failure – simply put, the bone marrow fails to produce red blood cells, white blood cells or platelets. Each year only 500 to 1,000 people are diagnosed with this disease. The optimum treatment for aplastic anemia is bone marrow transplantation. When Jack was initially diagnosed, our other sons were tested to see if either of them would be a candidate for transplant, and it was a relief to find that our youngest, Mike, was an exact match.

In 2009 when Jack was ready for transplant, the decision for the facility location had to be made.

Until a respected physician at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston suggested her friend, Philip McCarthy, M.D., at Roswell Park Cancer Institute, we hadn't considered Buffalo as a place of treatment for our son. Our home is 210 miles away, and we knew we would have to relocate for the requisite 100 days. Our transplant coordinator at Roswell Park first told us about Kevin Guest House, and our decision on Roswell Park was largely based on the availability of Kevin Guest House. The Social Work department at Roswell Park was instrumental in assisting us with our lodging needs as well. We felt that the Guest House would be the perfect fit for our family, and I spent much time on the internet reading their website, memorizing the photos and virtual tours. Knowing that we would have a "home away from home" meant that we could concentrate on Jack's medical care with no worries about lodging.

Our time at Kevin Guest House totaled 110 days. We arrived December 14 and left April 2. I marked Christmas, New Year's, Martin Luther King Day, Valentine's Day, President's Day, St. Patrick's Day, and Holy Week: the changing decorations in the Guest House helped keep the homesickness at bay. I was happily surprised to see that the Guest House was even lovelier than I'd thought: the website did not show the new kitchen, new living room decor, or renovated brick house apartments. I moved into a brick house apartment alone on Christmas Eve and was touched to find a Christmas tree all ready for me. Not only that, but the beds were made up with fresh linens, the kitchen was fully equipped with a dishwasher, a clothes washer and a dryer, and there was a fully stocked linen closet. Flat screen TV, desk-top computer, leather furniture: I called my husband and told him I wouldn't be coming home!

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18th Annual Affaire of the Heart

Kevin Guest House provides caring, affordable and safe accommodations to individuals seeking care at area medical facilities, and to their loved ones at a time of need.

Heartline is a publication of:
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Dear Friends,

It is one of the most beautiful times of the year with bright days, cool evenings and the wonder of the budding flowers. The arrival of the spring season in Western New York is wonderful!

Spring time for many of us is a recognition of renewal and rebirth...we see it everyday at Kevin Guest House as past guests visit for their annual check-ups and remain driven to stay healthy and humbled by their life experiences. We are committed to serving our long time guests and new guests each and every day. To help make Kevin Guest House remain a vital resource and to continue our mission, we are undertaking an expansion project like none other for our home away home.

If you've been reading Heartline, I have mentioned our goals for the future and as we move toward those goals of opening a new home on our current Kevin Guest House campus I'd like to share some exciting news. We have signed a contract for civil engineering work for Phase 1 of our expansion project. Clough Harbour and Associates will provide this service and we look forward to working with them. The Facilities Team at Roswell Park Cancer Institute have been extremely helpful bringing our vision to light through their commitment and dedication in helping us serve more people than ever before. The creative and conceptual drawings are wonderful and depict a serene environment for our guests to find respite, support and comfort while staying at KGH.

We are working with the City of Buffalo and their Ellicott Street Parks team of John Bidell, Project Manager, City of Buffalo and Muffett Mauche George, an engineer with Foit-Albert Associates, to coordinate our redesigned street frontage and south parking lot with the City's plans of creating a park like setting within the heart of the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus of which we sit in the middle. It's almost like all of this is meant to be!

As we make our campus better to meet the growing and changing needs of our guests, the City of Buffalo will make the entire medical campus a more welcoming place for residents and those traveling to Buffalo for medical care and treatment. It is our goal to be able to raise the money needed for our expansion project (\$1.5 million) in the very near future. With the help of the Garvey family we have already raised over \$400,000 with a Friends and Family campaign (pledged amount \$500,000!) Thank you Garvey Family and Friends!

Foundation grants are going out as I write and we look forward to a positive response from all of them.

We have a lot of work to do and look forward to the challenge. Though we haven't any "ground-breaking" dates, I feel that it could be as early as September when the City of Buffalo begins the road construction in preparation of the Ellicott Street Parks project. It'll be messy, but the end results will be well worth it!

Enjoy the season of renewal and rebirth and know that our doors remain open to greet you when you need us.

*Sincerely,
Wayne*

To the family & those seeking medical care in the Buffalo area—Kevin Guest house provides
caring, affordable and safe accommodations

Having an apartment in the brick house meant that my husband and our other two sons could visit us at any time but more importantly that Jack and I had our privacy with every comfort of home. During Jack's inpatient stay of 62 days, I could come home at night to the apartment and have the solitude to regroup, and after his discharge it was a relief to be together and make it our temporary home. We quickly got into a routine as his health improved and because of the central location of the Guest House, we were able to explore a number of Buffalo neighborhoods, including Allentown, Elmwood, and Delaware Park. We took a beautiful winter walk through Forest Lawn Cemetery as well.

While Jack was an inpatient at Roswell Park, I was able to share dinner several nights a week at the Guest House without cooking or cleaning. The wonderful volunteers served us, joined us for meals, and picked up afterward. Dinners included discussions of our loved ones' progress, and unlike conversations with many friends at home, the eyes of our dinner companions at the table did not glaze over indicating "too much information." We all understood the alphabet soup of our days spent in a hospital room - GvHD, TPN, FK - no explanation was required and genuine, knowledgeable concern was expressed. One of our favorite dinner companions passed away during this time, and we all shared our grief. But I'll never forget the laughter at the table as well - one gentleman expressed dismay at cooking for himself while his wife was hospitalized ("I look at recipes but there are so many ingredients!"). It was always fun to hear where we all hailed from: most guests seemed to be from Western New York (still a bit of a mysterious area to me!) but there were a few from my home region. We all tried to find familiar ground with this information, and it was exciting to compare friends we had in

common. And as time went on, I began to learn about Jamestown, Lancaster, Olean and even some Pennsylvania towns. After Jack's discharge, we joined in a number of other dinners, including our final night which coincided with a wonderful barbeque prepared by Francis for the guests. There were only one or two weeks during my long stay when there were no meals prepared, and those weeks definitely felt a little empty and I missed the fellowship.

Each day when I checked for mail at the Guest House, there was always a friendly greeting from Wayne, Barb, Cathy and Jeff, as well as the volunteer on duty at the time. When I needed to make copies of the never-ending insurance claims, I was allowed to use the office machine which alleviated much of the frustration with that chore. In late March, the Guest House annual luncheon coincided with a Social Work Department health fair at Roswell Park, and Wayne asked if I would be willing to represent KGH. I was more than happy to do so and was pleased to share our lodging experience with everyone there!

And what to say about Francis, the resident manager: she remembers everyone's name, asks about specific family members at dinner, and cares for her guests while maintaining respect for privacy and dignity. Francis is always ready with a kind word, especially when a guest is feeling overwhelmed or homesick.

Our long stay at Kevin Guest House is over and we are back at home. It's a relief to know that should we require any overnights in Buffalo for future medical treatment, the staff at Kevin Guest House will have a room ready, brownies on the kitchen table, and some of the best tea mugs on earth. *We have friends in the surprisingly lovely city of Buffalo, and we will never forget them.*

Visit Kevin Guest House on Facebook!



5th ANNUAL KEVIN GUEST HOUSE OKTOBERFEST

Mark your calendars for this year's Oktoberfest, Friday, September 24 at the Hatch.

The festivities will begin at 5 pm, and will feature live music by The Frankfurters, the best of the "wurst", authentic German food and beverages, contests, raffles and more!

< A group of friends enjoy the food and beverages at the 4th annual KGH Oktoberfest.

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t: (716) 882-1818
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www.kevinguesthouse.org



Jim Constantin

ROSWELL PARK DIRECTOR JOINS KGH BOARD

Jim Constantin, Director of Planning at Roswell Park Cancer Institute, has been named to the KGH Board of Directors. We welcome Jim and his wealth of knowledge in facilities planning, design and construction administration.

Jim has a five year Bachelor of Architecture Degree from the New York Institute of Technology-Cum Laude-and was a Gold Medal Design Award Recipient in 1981. He has also achieved licensure in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Jim's past experience includes positions at Rutgers and Cornell University and 18 years experience as a private consulting architect.

In total, he has over 28 years experiences within the architectural profession.

In addition to KGH, Jim is involved with other non-profit organizations such as Community Action Organization of Erie County, Kashmir Hospital in India, and the Promiseland Missionary Baptist Church.

Welcome Jim!

help support Kevin Guest House's mission by making a donation at:
www.kevinguesthouse.org

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The 2009 winning foursome from Cloug Harbour included Frank Delignois, Darren Delignois, Dan Higgins and Mark Jarmuz, pictured here with Kevyn Adams.

Come Golf with Kevyn Adams, Scotty Bowman, Harry Neale, Jeff Nixon, Kevin O'Connell, and More!

Please mark your calendar to join us at the 14th Annual Kevin Guest House Celebrity Golf Classic hosted by Kevyn Adams of the Buffalo Sabres Coaching Staff. Kevyn's special guests will include Scotty Bowman, Harry Neale, Kevin O'Connell and other top NHL players media personalities. All proceeds from the tourney will benefit Kevin Guest House, the nation's *FIRST hospital hospitality house*.

The golf tournament will be held on Monday, July 19 at Glen Oak Golf Course in East Amherst. Registration will begin at 10:30 am followed by lunch and a shotgun start at noon. The tournament format is a four person scramble.

Golf spots are \$150 each or \$600 per foursome. For a sponsorship of \$1,000, a foursome will be assigned a celebrity golfer for 9 holes. Additional sponsorship opportunities are available as well.

Last year the golf tourney raised over \$43,000 for Kevin Guest House. For more information, contact Cathy Allen at 882-1818 or at cathy@kevinguesthouse.org.

Friends of Kevin Guest House}



Students from the Cancer Awareness Club at Orchard Park High School recently paid a visit to KGH. The students decorated the house for Valentine's Day and brought flowers for our guests to enjoy. THANK YOU!



KGH recently hosted a visit by members of the General Council of the Felician Sisters. Pictured here are (L to R): Sister Mary Reginalda Gagala, Sister Janet Marie Kurgan, Sister Mary Francis Montgomery, Sister Mary Cabrini Procopio and Sister Mary Kevin Szeluga. Francis, our Resident Manager, invited the sisters for dinner and to learn more about the mission of Kevin Guest House. A lovely time was had by all!



Jennifer Hurwitz of Compendium, Inc. and her late sister, Julie Long Cremens, made a thoughtful donation of an assortment of Compendium, Inc. inspirational books, journals, note cards and keepsakes to Kevin Guest House. Jennifer and Julie were guests at KGH while Julie received treatment at Roswell Park Cancer Institute. Unfortunately, Julie lost her battle with cancer a couple of months ago but her spirit lives on at KGH through their donation.

Compendium is a Seattle-based company that creates and distributes a line of inspiring gift products which include a line of gift books, journals, stationery, desk accessories and home décor are now sold in thousands of specialty retail gift stores worldwide.

Since 1985, Compendium has turned everyday items into extraordinary gifts, and everyday occasions into memorable events.

GoodSearch.com...an easy way to support KGH!

What if Kevin Guest House earned a donation every time you searched the Internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support our cause? Well, now it can!

GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up!

Just go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter Kevin Guest House as the charity you want to support. And, be sure to spread the word!



Suzy Garvey, Ted Purvis, and Peter Morris



Ralph Salerno, Erika Brason, and Wayne Zimmerman



Steve McElone



Wayne Zimmerman and Rene Lorek



Kevin and Janet O'Leary with Wayne Zimmerman

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20
HEART AW
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...listens to Father Richard's remarks



Michael Ingalls and his Family



The Rehabilitation Department from Roswell Park Cancer Institute with Wayne Zimmerman

- Pharmacy Ltd. •
- Roswell Park
- Phillips Lytle LLP •
- VER 1st Priority
- Buffalo Seminary •
- Leary • Parkview
- RealtyUSA • Tops

Kevin Guest House held its annual Heart Awards Luncheon in late March and judging by all the calls and emails we have received at the office a great time was had by all!

Upon their arrival, our over 150 guests were treated to a champagne reception with music flowing from the sounds of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra rehearsing in the concert hall at Kleinhan's Music Hall.

Thanks to the generosity of everyone involved, the event raised over \$13,000. These funds are used to support the ongoing mission of Kevin Guest House which is to provide safe, comfortable, and affordable lodging to patients and their loved ones traveling far from their home for medical treatment at a Buffalo area health care facility.

The lucky winners in the Heart Awards raffle were: Lucy McCabe, Buffalo Bisons Game Day Package for 4; Pam Schurter, a \$150 gift certificate to Oliver's Restaurant and a \$150 gift certificate to Rue Franklin Restaurant; Peter Morris, a Cutco Knife Set and a \$50 gift certificate to Premier Gourmet and a \$50 gift certificate to Prime Wine & Spirits; and Denis Garvey, Wine Lover's Basket.

10 HEART AWARDS

IN A GREAT SUCCESS!

FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2010

ROOM @ KLEINHAN'S MUSIC HALL

- Keller Bros. & Miller Printing, Inc. • Oliver's Restaurant • Henry Gorino • Erin George
- Dessert Deli • Parkside Candy Co. • Anne Taylor • Buffalo Bisons
- Inc. • Gates Circle Liquor • Prime Wine & Spirits • Erika Brason • Father Richard
- James Constantin • Kathleen Graim • Laura Shoemaker • Rue Franklin Restaurant •
- am • Mike Patti • Tony Martin Awards • Buffalo Bills • Hogan Willig • Steve McGlone
- arilyn Ross • Diane Smith • Diane Carr • June Fallon • Fay Beals • Renee Greene
- ella • Eileen Balduf • KrisAnn Bolt • Lucy McCabe **THANK YOU ALL!**

HONOREES

Heart of Loyalty Award
Keller Bros. & Miller, Inc.

Heart of Compassion Award
Rehabilitation Department at
Roswell Park Cancer Institute

Heart of Courage Award
Michael Ingalls and Family

Heart of Hearts Award
Norine "Rene" Lorek

The Kevin Garvey Award
Kevin and Janet O'Leary



KEVIN GUEST HOUSE HOSTS ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

Kevin Guest House will host its Annual Open House on Wednesday, July 21 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This celebration is held in conjunction with the National Association of Hospital Hospitality House Week. Thousands of families and patients of all ages and walks of life have found a haven within the warm home-like-environments provided by hospitality houses all over the country.

Sponsored by Rosina Food Products, Inc. and Tops Markets, the Open House will feature complimentary food, beverages, and tours of the KGH complex.

"Our Open House has been a long standing tradition in celebrating our 38th anniversary and inviting the public to visit and get a glimpse of our service." said Wayne M. Zimmerman, Executive Director.

"This is a great chance for the community to learn about the House and our mission of offering a respite and affordable accommodations for patients, outpatients and their loved ones", continued Zimmerman.

The public is invited to attend. We hope to see you on July 21!!

The following organizations and individuals have been added to the Kevin Guest House Hall of Angels. The Hall of Angels recognizes donors who have contributed \$1,000 or more during a calendar year. Thank you one and all for your continued support and generosity during 2009.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT Monsignor Richard S. Amico Memorial Trust • Gina Carpenter • Checkers Athletic Club • Evans-Devereux Memorial Fund • Garman Family Foundation • GMR of WNY, Inc. • Denis & Susan Garvey • Hugh J. Garvey III • Thomas & Mary Garvey • Mary Grenier • The Jacquie Hirsch For A.L.L. Foundation • Ingram Micro • Ronald Kennuth • James F. & Jean A. Quigley • Dr. Lyle F. Renodin Foundation • Barbara Schafer • Wendt Corporation

GUEST FOOD PROGRAM INTRODUCED IN 2009

Last year Kevin Guest House, in partnership with Tops Friendly Markets, launched our Guest Food Program. With generous donations of gift cards from Tops and other donations from a variety of sources, KGH is now able to provide a full continental breakfast to our guests. Each morning guests are greeted to the aroma of freshly brewed coffee and enjoy a variety of pastries, cereals, waffles, juice, breads, jams, and baked goods.

In addition, the 2-year-old Claudia Garvey Memorial Guild Guest Dinner Program, under the leadership of Joanne Janicki and Nora O'Neill, saw over 73 dinners prepared by a wide range of volunteers during 2009. That's over a meal a week for our guests to enjoy!

Thank you to our volunteer diner hosts.

Sarah and George Montz
Judi Keating and Friends
Joanne Janicki
Roswell Park Cancer Institute Rehabilitation Department
Nora and Tim O'Neill and Friends
Chris Davis and Friends
Diane and Derek Smith
Sue Banchich
Buffalo Sunrise Rotary
Sarah and George Montz
Bethany Hills
The McDermotts
Nancy Boire and Friends
Roswell Park Cancer Institute Amherst Center Nursing Staff
Paulette Freyer & Friends
The Hersteck Family
University at Buffalo Occupational Therapy Students
Ms. Boris and Ms. Young
The Dwyers
Francis Montgomery
Lisa Zehler
Wayne H. Zimmerman

If you or your organization is interested in participating in our Guest Dinner Program, please contact Wayne M. Zimmerman at 882-1818 or at wmzimmerman@kevinguesthouse.org.

Host a Fund Raising Event for KGH!

If you are interested in conducting a fund raiser for KGH, please contact Cathy Allen at 716-882-1818 or at cathy@kevinguesthouse.org. *Thanks for your consideration!*

GRANTS & FOUNDATIONS

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 John Yormick
 Thomas & Linda Zeeb
 Arnie & Marjorie Zelman
 Stanley P. & Kathleen A. Zembryski
 Virginia C. Ziegler
 Mark & Joyce Zygaj

Thank You

Our sincere thanks to the following Western New York businesses and individuals who continually support KGH with in kind donations. We rely on such donations to help offset costs related to fund raising events or for general operations.

Please support those companies who support Kevin Guest House.

- bZyne Creative Services
- Just Vino
- Keller Bros. & Miller Printing
- ReatlyUSA
- Schuele Paint
- TOPS Friendly Markets

please help us continue our mission...

Kitchen Pantry Items

Coffee – regular
Powder Coffee Creamer
Equal packets
Splenda packets
Sugar
Salt
Spices
Olive Oil/Canola Oil
Crackers
Canned Soups
Jar Spaghetti Sauce
Peanut Butter
Jam and Jelly
Non-Stick Cooking Spray (Mazola Pure)

Cleaning Supplies

Liquid Hand Soap
Liquid Dishwasher Detergent
Clorox Anywhere Spray
Tilex Daily Shower Spray
Air Wick Solid Room Freshener
Furniture Polish
Window Cleaner
Swiffer Wet and Dry Sheets
Toilet Bowl Cleaner
All Purpose Spray Cleaner
Spic and Span Liquid Floor Cleaner
Kitchen Sponges
Dish Detergent
Clorox Wipes

Laundry Supplies

Liquid Detergent
Liquid Clorox II
Liquid Fabric Softener
Bleach
Dryer Sheets
Spray Starch

Linens (please, new in package only)

Mattress Pads – Twin and Queen

Zipper Pillow Covers – Standard (hypo-allergenic)
Sheet Sets – Twin and Queen (neutrals-beige, cream, tan, and ecru)
Fleece Blankets – Twin and Queen
Towel Sets – white, beige, and tan (able to with stand bleaching)
Kitchen Towel Sets
Dish Cloths

Food Storage & Preparation

Quick Release Foil
Plastic Wrap
Parchment Paper
Freezer Storage Bags – Quart and Gallon size

Gift Cards

Home Depot
Tops
Wegmans

Office Supplies

Copy paper: white and colored
Scotch tape
Postage stamps

Paper Products

Toilet Paper
Paper Towels
Napkins
Dixie Cups
Paper Plates
Plastic Silverware

Miscellaneous

Postage Stamps
Under Bed Plastic Storage Boxes
Printer and Copier Paper – white and pastels
Card Stock – white, off white, beige and cream

Computer Supplies

CD-RW disks
Printer Cartridges – HP #11 - magenta, cyan and yellow;
HP #10 – black

SAVE THE DATE!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2010
18th AFFAIRE OF THE HEART
ILIO DIPAULO'S RESTAURANT

The Affaire of the Heart will include wonderful food selections, silent and live auctions, raffles, creative signature cocktails, music, strolling entertainers and more!

The Affaire of the Heart Committee, co-chaired by Madonna Bonitatibus and Jeff Karabanowski, is looking for people to host a Gift Gathering Party for the Affaire of the Heart.

A Gift Gathering Party is an opportunity for people to get together, have fun, and bring a gift to be used as an auction item at the Affaire of the Heart. It can be as simple or elaborate as you like. It can be a theme party or a friendly gathering. Gift Gathering Parties have proven to be an integral part of the past success of the Affaire of the Heart and play an important role in the gathering of donations for the event.

If you would like more information about volunteering, sponsorships, tickets, or Gift Gathering Parties, please contact Cathy Allen at 716.882.1818 or at cathy@kevinguesthouse.org



Kevin Guest House
782 Ellicott Street
Buffalo, NY 14203

Kevin Guest House is a member of the
National Association of Hospital Hospitality Houses.

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www.kevinquesthouse.org

“Kevin Guest House
Serving our neighbors at home and around the world.”

YES, I want to help!

My contribution is a gift of \$ _____

To provide “Hospital Hospitality with care and concern”

Your Name

Address

City

State

ZIP

Phone #

E-mail address

Please charge my: Mastercard Visa Discover

Card #

3 digit security code

Expiration Date

Signature

All gifts are tax deductible as allowed by law. A copy of Kevin Guest House’s latest Annual Report filed with the NYS Charities Bureau is available upon request from Kevin Guest House or from the Office of the Attorney General, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341

In Memory of

In Honor of

Name (Please Print)

Please Notify

Name

Address

