



Communiqué

FALL 2005

The Tom Alevisatos Memorial Fund

A Fitting Tribute to a Man who Gave Generously of Himself

A Westmount institution, **Chez Nick** Restaurant on Greene Avenue will be celebrating its 85th anniversary in October 2005. Sadly, an important force behind it, Tom Alevisatos, will not be present.

Tom died on April 6, 2005 after fighting a brutal and courageous battle with renal cancer, supported by his wife Cecile and his family and friends who loved him.



The late Tom Alevisatos with his wife Cecile.

Best known as the owner of **Chez Nick** for 25 years, Tom and his siblings all worked at the family restaurant that was established by their father Nicholas in 1920. Tom moved to Calgary to work as an engineer, but his father lured him back in 1971 to take over the business. While he sold it in 1995, he came in from time to time to help out and remained very popular with its customers.

From the moment he was diagnosed in 2003, Tom never complained about being sick. He was more worried about the burden he was placing on his family. He also wished he could help his doctor, François Patenaude, who treated him with dignity and provided him and his family with unparalleled personal attention and hope.

Tom always gave of himself to anyone in need, whether it was through a warm hug or words of wisdom, so it is only fitting that the **Tom Alevisatos Memorial Fund** was set up to help Dr. Patenaude and the oncology department.

Family, friends and patrons of **Chez Nick** have all given generously. They have been inspired not only by their warm memories of Tom, but also by Cécile's determination to make a difference. Through their hard work, Tom's fund has become one of the JGH Foundation's success stories.

Tom's family, in choosing to remember him in this way, has turned a tragic death into new hope and help for patients with renal cancer—a truly meaningful tribute to his tenacity, bravery and love of life.

For its anniversary weekend, October 21 – 23, 2005, **Chez Nick** will feature a special menu, as well as items like mugs and aprons for sale with the proceeds going to the **Tom Alevisatos Memorial Fund**. Donation cards are always available at the cash, as well as a guest book where people are invited to share their memories of Tom and the restaurant.

Memorial donations to the Jewish General Hospital Foundation do infinite good by bringing hope and encouragement to the thousands of patients who are treated here as well as to those who care for them. To set up a memorial fund at the JGH Foundation, please call (514) 340-8251.



Cecile, Tom's brother George and his sister Maria with current Chez Nick owner, Rob Callard.

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A Word from the President



In the last edition of Communiqué, physical expansion was the topic of discussion with details on the new Cummings E Pavilion, the Segal Comprehensive Cancer Centre, and the new Nuclear Medicine Facility. I am pleased to report that construction of the Cummings' expansion and the Segal Centre are proceeding on schedule and that the new Nuclear Medicine Facility opened this past June with installation of the JGH's first PET/CT scan.

Although construction is an important and highly visible component of the hospital's "Power to Heal" campaign, providing the JGH with the human capital necessary to treat our patients is equally, if not, even more important to providing excellence in patient care. Recruiting and maintaining leading physicians, surgeons and clinician-scientists who bring their experience and expertise to the hospital is critical to advancing the frontiers of medicine and remaining at the forefront of scientific discovery. As a result, the JGH continues to actively recruit new physicians, surgeons and clinician-scientists to the ranks of its distinguished staff. The following are some of the new physicians that have recently joined or will soon be joining our staff:

Dr. Ernesto L. Schiffrin – A leading expert on hypertension and a specialist in internal medicine, Dr. Schiffrin will be joining the JGH in January 2006 as Physician-in-Chief. In addition to his clinical responsibilities, Dr. Schiffrin will concentrate on his research that includes the clinical pharmacology of hypertension and its molecular and cellular determinants.

Dr. Jason Agulnik – Following completion of specialty training in pulmonary oncology at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, Dr. Agulnik joined the JGH's Division of Pulmonary Diseases earlier this year. Dr. Agulnik's expertise extends to interventional bronchoscopy, a state-of-the-art diagnostic procedure critical to the detection of lung cancer.

Dr. Jordan Steinberg – Dr. Steinberg recently joined the JGH's Department of Urology as a uro-oncologist with fellowship training from the renown MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. His area of specialization is the surgical management of prostate, bladder, kidney and testicular cancer.

Dr. Marc Tischkowitz – A young, extremely well trained medical oncologist and cancer geneticist, Dr. Tischkowitz will be arriving from England this fall to join the JGH's Department of Oncology with both clinical and laboratory research programs in breast cancer.

I hope that you will enjoy reading the current issue of Communiqué. It is thanks to the generosity of donors like you that the JGH is able to attract outstanding new members to our staff each year.

Myer Bick, President and Chief Executive Officer, JGH Foundation



Weekend to End Breast Cancer Update

The inaugural Weekend to End Breast Cancer was held in Montreal on August 27 and 28. Over 3,000 people streamed through the streets of the city and were met by thousands of cheering citizens. This is the largest event of its kind ever held in Montreal and it raised over \$9.2 million. The rousing and emotional 60-kilometre walk has given a major boost to research, treatment and prevention of breast cancer at the Jewish General Hospital's Segal Comprehensive Cancer Centre.

Plans are already underway for next year's event which will take place on August 25-27, 2006. To learn more about the event visit the website at www.endcancer.ca or call (514) 393-WALK (9255).



Planned Giving -

The Charitable Remainder Trust:

Ruth and Maurice Miller wanted to do something special for the hospital. "The JGH serves an important purpose for the Montreal community and is a wonderful institution" affirms Ruth. Her husband adds, "We recognize the caliber and efficiency of the hospital, especially when one considers the great number of people that pass through these doors".

Married for 57 years, the Millers live comfortably, enjoy life and want to provide a gift today without affecting their current lifestyle. They also preferred receiving immediate income tax relief as opposed to deferring it to their estate. Mr. Miller, a retired C.A. and Certified Management Consultant, considered various gifting options and decided that the Charitable Remainder Trust was the perfect vehicle

The Millers derive enormous pleasure in knowing that they have made a generous gift to the hospital today for use in the future. They will continue to receive the income generated by the Charitable Remainder Trust for their



Maurice and Ruth Miller

lifetimes, thereby maintaining their current lifestyle. In addition, they have received a donation receipt which can be used to obtain tax relief in the current year. Any unused portion of the receipted amount can be carried forward for 5 years.

Although the "tree" has been donated, Ruth and Maurice Miller will continue to enjoy the "fruit" for many years to come.

To find out more about Charitable Remainder Trusts or other planned giving options, please contact Beverly Kravitz, Director of Planned Giving, at (514) 340-8222, ext. 4123 or bkravitz@fon.jgh.mcgill.ca. Beverly will be pleased to meet with you and/or your professionals to discuss charitable gifting opportunities.

Perhaps this letter says it better than we could.

Giving Brings Its Own Reward

Francine Levi
Director of Donor Relations
Jewish General Hospital Foundation

Dear Francine,

I am so grateful to the surgeon and nurses who have helped me maintain my quality of life over these past years, that I want to thank you again for helping me do something tangible to express my appreciation.

As you might recall, I wanted to do something more specific than an annual donation, like funding an item of needed equipment which hospital financing was unable to provide. I feel that your hospital staff needs some encouragement to continue working in an under-funded medical system. My concern was that most items would be beyond my means.

Your suggestion of the urethroscope for the Urology Department was, indeed, almost double my target. But when you showed me how my contribution could be spread over 2 years, it was the turning point for me. I was so happy to discover I could actually afford it when, before, I had thought it impossible.

It gives me such a feeling of satisfaction to have made a small, but specific contribution and so I have decided to do the same for the Ophthalmology Department, by funding an Auto-Refractor Keratometer. I understand that this device automatically detects the refraction of the patient's eye and determines the prescription instantly. This technology must allow the doctors to see a lot more patients.

As before, I do not want any fanfare made about this and I ask to remain anonymous.

I remain eternally grateful.

Yours,
(Anonymous)

Cecil's Ride

An avid sportsman, Cecil April was a spirited man with a big heart. He had a host of friends whose lives were touched and influenced by his zest for life.

On the day he turned 65, Cecil was diagnosed with colon cancer and immediately began treatment. His family was intent on making his next birthday a more enjoyable experience, so they invited friends and family to their cottage in Stowe, Vermont to join him in one of his favorite pastimes, cycling.

And instead of gifts, guests were asked to make a donation to the Division of Gastroenterology in his honour. Word quickly got around and people started inviting themselves thinking this was a fundraiser.

And so a tradition was born, with impressive results from the very beginning. In 2002 and 2003, Cecil's friends and family raised a staggering \$73,000!

Sadly, the next edition had to be cancelled due to Cecil's illness. He lost his battle with colon cancer in August 2004.

While his death was a devastating blow, Cecil's children and his widow Gloria, encouraged by their friends, realized that it would be a fitting memorial to him if the tradition continued. And so, *Cecil's Ride* went ahead on July 9, 2005 under the leadership of Cecil's son Jimmy and his son-in-law Andy Kirstein.

Almost 100 cyclists rode one of three routes ranging from 25 to 60 miles, depending on their fitness level. And 150 guests enjoyed the barbecue that was paid for entirely by the April Family.

As a result, **ALL** the money raised--more than \$35,000--went directly to the Division of Gastroenterology at the Jewish General Hospital to purchase colonoscopes for Dr. Albert Cohen, Division Chief.

A colonoscope is a long, thin, flexible tube with a tiny video camera and a light on the end. It is the equipment of choice for screening patients at high risk for colon cancer. By adjusting the various controls, the gastroenterologist can carefully guide the instrument in any direction to look at the inside of the colon. A high resolution picture is shown on a TV monitor.

Other instruments can be passed through the colonoscope to painlessly remove a suspicious-looking growth or to take a biopsy for further analysis. In this way, colonoscopy may help to avoid surgery or to better define what type of surgery may need to be done.

While a colonoscope is an essential tool in any hospital, the government does not provide enough money for the JGH to purchase an adequate number.

Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of a few, in memory of a wonderful husband, father and friend, JGH patients will be better served. Cecil's enduring legacy includes not only essential hospital equipment, but also the gift of love and laughter he left behind for those close to him to remember long into the future.

Are you interested in putting together your own fundraiser? If so, the JGH Foundation is here to help! Please call us at (514) 340-8251.



Cecil April, 2002

How To Make Your Gifts Go Further!

The Monthly Giving Program is an easy way for individuals to help the Hospital throughout the year. By making an arrangement for a specific amount of money to be debited monthly from your bank account, Visa or MasterCard, you will be able to maximize your much needed support. What could be more convenient? The Monthly Giving Program allows us to make your gifts go further by eliminating solicitation letters, reducing the cost of processing donations and saving on postage. These savings are applied directly to the programs that you support, increasing the impact of your gift. Receipts for tax purposes are sent out once per year in January. For more information on how to join the Monthly Giving Program, **please contact Larry Sidel at the Foundation - (514) 340-8222 Ext. 1922.** ❖

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