



# The Voice

Summer 2011

## Women's Association of Morristown Medical Center

### President's Message

I love the phrase *"unless you walk out into the unknown, the odds of making a profound difference in your life are pretty low"*. I wish I could take credit for that wisdom, but I did better than that.... I took a giant step into the unknown becoming President of the Women's Association two years ago! And I am so glad I did! What a wonderful and memorable experience leading a 875+ member organization of dedicated, compassionate, and professional volunteers!

Although it seems like a long time, it is amazing to look back and realize how fast two years go, especially considering how much has happened and was accomplished in that period of time. The mission of the Women's Association is to support Morristown Medical Center in advancing the quality of healthcare in the community. Since taking office, I am amazed to say that the Women's Association contributed over \$3 million dollars to Morristown Medical Center. Here are some highlights;

The most recent event? Our name is going to change. As you know, Morristown Memorial Hospital changed its name to **Morristown Medical Center** in May to reflect the comprehensive care available at our facility. So, our name (Women's Association of Morristown Memorial Hospital) doesn't quite suit any longer. The Executive Board voted to change the name of the organization to (Women's Association of Morristown Medical Center). In June, the full Board endorsed the change, and will vote to formalize the change in the next few months according to our bylaws.

Most recently, the Women's Association dispersed a total **\$1.6 million** in funds to various departments and programs at MMC. In the year 2010, we contributed \$100,000 toward the purchase of an Echo Cardiology machine for the Children's Heart Center at Goryeb Children's Hospital. We also allocated \$300,000 to the completion of the Simon 5 renovation for cancer patients. The Women's Association wing will provide patients with private rooms and state-of-the-art support in a calm, healing atmosphere. At the opening event, Dr. Shulkin, President of MMC acknowledged the contributions made by the Women's Association with deep appreciation. I was so proud to represent you all.

As a key partner in success at Morristown Medical Center,

the Women's Association's fundraising efforts and good work span across the entire campus and impact so many different departments.

This past year, for the first time, the Board voted to fund participation in a research project happening here at MMC. Dr. Brian Slomovitz addressed our leadership team sharing the promising results of cutting edge research focused on ovarian cancer.



Our spring fundraiser was a HUGE success! The Royal Watch, an event all about the recent wedding of Prince William and his bride Katherine was the "buzz" all around the area. The event was a sell out! The Women's Association raised over \$56,000!! It was sensational. All this was made possible by co-chairs exemplar June Meehan and Sandy Finlayson. They put together a remarkable committee who created a most memorable event. As President, they made me feel like a Queen. The event was featured on LX New York, a prime time television program featuring local news. But more importantly, the proceeds of the event will support the Child Life Program at MMC. This is a unique and special department at MMC providing therapeutic support to children and their families facing all levels of trauma/treatment MMC. The Women's Association is proud to support the work they do.

Our 2010 Annual Meeting was another wonderful time. The Women's Association was honored for its contributions to the Emergency Department Expansion campaign. Dr. Mark Mandell, head of the Emergency Department, presented the association with a replica of plaques that will be prominently displayed in ED designated areas when the project is completed. Thanks to Kathie Harrington for creating a program also featuring Ellyn Spragins the author of "What I Know Now" series of books. It was my delight to present the New Jersey Hospital Association awards to deserving WAMMC members. The coveted Eleanor "Busy Bee" award was presented to Michelle Meszaros for years of endless support of the Women's Association. (see related articles and pictures in this edition).

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*President's message continued*

Taking a look inward, our Twigs are re-energized and more connected with improved communication at the leadership level. These small neighborhood groups are a special part of the Women's Association. Their work and success are remarkable. Their reach is vast; from supporting our scholarship fund, to purchasing a hemodialysis blanket warmer, to supporting the developmental disabilities center, to the ED campaign... the list goes on and on. Some of our Twigs focus on the PICU and NICU by supplying a toy chest with goodies and activities or by making and delivering home cooked dinners for families tied to the hospital caring for loved ones. How wonderful for a family to be comforted with a meal that is not microwaved, prepackaged or take-out! We welcomed The new Chatham Twig to our membership. It didn't take long for that group of young, dedicated volunteers to get up and running with a successful holiday fundraiser within months. As this Twig got launched, I was sad to learn that the Round Towner Twig voted to disband. It was my privilege to honor the Round Towner members present at our last annual meeting thanking them for 30 plus years of dedication and commitment to MMC. What a wonderful and inspirational group of women!

When my term began, many successful projects had already occurred or were already in progress. Focus was centered on our signature fundraiser, Mansion in May. We were so fortunate to present Fawn Hill Farm in spring 2010. With over 20,000 guests, 2000 volunteers and thousands of hours of love, we raised over \$850,000 dollars! Most successful Mansion ever! I've said it before, and I'll say it again and again, my sincere thanks to Anne Rooke and Sue Bruen as Mansion Co-Chairs and the amazing team they organized. The overwhelming success of the Mansion gave the Women's Association a huge advantage in

fulfilling our pledge to the Emergency Department expansion campaign. Our initial pledge was for \$500,000. Due to Mansion's success, the WAMMC Board voted to make our donation \$1 million dollars to the project exceeding our initial goal, and completing our pledge two years early!! The Women's Association will be acknowledged in three ED areas; the family waiting room, the results waiting area and in the new entrance area.

Our Scholarship grants are up to \$20,000 per year and provide educational opportunities for many health care professionals connected to MMC. Our Babies Alumni fund will make significant contributions to the Mother/Baby department as well this year.

All these events and activities are important, but I can't miss mentioning our businesses which continue to be very strong and provide ongoing support to the association yearly. Special thanks to Shobhi Patel, Gift Shop manager and Joe Nassaney, Bargain Box manager and our Au Bon Pain business support as well.

We have a dedicated staff of wonderful employees (and terrific volunteers too!) evidenced by years of service with the Women's Association. I've enjoyed working with them all.

I share my sincere appreciation to the Women's Association Board for their support and guidance these past two years acknowledging outgoing members; Pat O'Connor, Kristi Davis, Jean Nolan, Cathy O'Neal, Cathy Markee, Kathie Harrington, Margaret Gilbert, and Marsha Conover.

As my term ends and I pass the gavel with best wishes to Beth Wipperman and the incoming Board. I am confident that the association is in good care.

As I leave office, it has been my joy and honor to lead an organization that defines "*Contributing with Passion*" every day. It is the standard to which all others aspire.

Referring back to my opening paragraph and thought; I thank you for taking the 'walk' with me.

Most sincerely,  
***Tina B. Mulhare***  
***President 2009-2011***

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## **ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS**

As our organization continues to grow and evolve, we are in the process of updating our membership information and would like for you to send us your email address so that you can be included in future electronic mailings (we will respect your privacy). Please send your email address to [kjohnson@atlantichhealth.org](mailto:kjohnson@atlantichhealth.org) to be included.





# The Royal Watch

## A Royal Touch for the Child Life Center at MMC



*Members of the Women's Association Royal Watch Committee enjoy a colorful display of hats for the event.*

It was a scene out of a fairy tale – the handsome Prince in his valiant uniform and the beautiful Princess in her flowing gown walking down the aisle as festively attired guests in the regal halls of “Westin-ster Abbey” looked on in awe... Although the historic British Royal Wedding was taking place across the pond, the 350 guests who attended our sold-out Royal Watch event at the Westin Governor Morris Hotel on April 29<sup>th</sup> felt as though they had front row seats at the nuptials of Prince William and Kate Middleton. Festooned in fascinators, tiaras, fur wraps and feathered hats, our guests embraced the joyous spirit of this special day and enthusiastically supported the Women's Association in raising funds for Morristown Medical Center's Child Life Program at Goryeb Children's Hospital.

In the Grand Ballroom, taped and live coverage of the Royal Wedding appeared on five screens strategically

located throughout the room and on the Promenade. The venue was resplendent with beautiful floral arrangements created and donated by nine of our area's premier floral designers. Tables featured luminous blue table toppers with coordinated napkins folded in the shape of crowns and favors filled with chocolate kisses decoratively sealed with Kate and William's official royal crest. Guests enjoyed a scrumptious brunch complete with a selection of scones with jam and clotted cream, tea sandwiches, quiche, and among the treats for dessert were tiny ginger cakes made from Queen Elizabeth's own recipe. At noon, Royal Watch co-chairs June Meehan and Sandy Finlayson raised their flutes of champagne as they toasted the royal couple and the success of this fundraising event.

Guests also enjoyed the shopping opportunities at the twelve Regent

Street Boutiques and participated in the exciting raffle where ten lucky winners took home prizes fit for a king or queen! An added highlight of the day was the television coverage on NBC's LX New York, a local lifestyle program, which was featured during prime time that same evening. Morristown Medical Center, The Child Life Program and the Women's Association were prominently mentioned and the video montage captured the brilliant ambiance of the event.



*Royal Watch Co-Chairs, June Meehan and Sandy Finlayson savor a photo opportunity with Siafa Lewis from NBC's LX New York.*

By the end of this truly royal day, the tremendous efforts of the Royal Watch committee and the generosity of participants resulted in \$56,000 being raised for the benefit of the Child Life Program whose team of highly skilled, compassionate specialists and caregivers are dedicated to ensuring that a child's hospital stay is as safe, secure and comfortable as possible through specialized programs and services.

Many thanks to June, Sandy and the Royal Watch Committee, and volunteers and participants whose efforts and contributions made the Royal Watch a resounding success!

# Scholarship Awards

Since its inception in 1893, the Women's Association has been a proud supporter of quality nursing at the hospital. Initially, this support ranged from actively helping to staff the hospital with qualified nurses, to providing uniforms and securing housing for the nurses. Individual donations and funds raised through bake sales were the financial backbone of this commitment. This consistent dedication to quality nursing led the way to the establishment of a formal Scholarship Program in 1957. Ultimately, the creation of the Scholarship Trust Fund in 1995 ensured this program's future. As a result, fifty-four years later, this dynamic program is still awarding scholarships annually to worthy candidates with a strong background in nursing, who show outstanding initiative and leadership. The fund is now able to award scholarships totaling at least \$20,000 annually.

The academic year 2010/2011 proved to be record setting in both the number of applications received and the number of scholarships awarded. After careful consideration by the Scholarship Committee of a record number of outstanding applicants, seven scholarships, each at \$3,300 for a total of \$23,100 were awarded to:

**Suzanne Clark**, currently serving as a Hyperbaric Medicine Clinical Coordinator, has been employed at Morristown Medical Center (MMC) in excess of nineteen years. Suzanne is applying her funding toward an MSN with a concentration in Leadership and Management. Suzanne's interest in research has generated research studies in the Hyperbaric Unit and has allowed her to present her findings at the national level. Suzanne's supervisor describes her as, "a highly motivated, detail-oriented professional."

**Marie Colangelo**, an employee of Morristown Medical Center for over twenty-three years, is currently a Unit Educator on the post-op open heart and interventional unit. Marie is a 4.0 student at Fairleigh Dickinson University enrolled in the Family Nurse Practitioner Program with additional certification in nursing education. Marie's supervisor notes that she is, "a role model for the staff and leads by example." She further states that Marie "is intelligent and thoughtful and always goes above and beyond what is required."

**Valerie Cruz**, a 21-year employee at Morristown Medical Center, is currently a Clinical Coordinator/Unit Educator with a primary focus in bedside care of the cardiac patient. Her goal is to attain her BSN at the College of St. Elizabeth. Valerie has been the recipient of numerous awards throughout her career as a nurse. Her supervisor acknowledges that she is, "a great motivator who excels at her job and always strives to elevate her colleagues to the next level."



*2010/2011 Scholarship Recipients (from left to right): Kimberly Venturella, Ginell Walker-Way, Christine Shafer, Suzanne Clark (sitting) Janet Doyle-Munoz and Marie Colangelo. Not photographed: Valerie Cruz.*

**Janet Doyle-Munoz** has worked at Morristown Medical Center for twenty-nine years and is presently a Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurse (WOCN). Janet attends the College of St. Elizabeth to attain her Masters in Nursing Education and aspires to become a college professor. Janet's supervisor recommended her for a scholarship because of her, "dedication to her profession, her creative and innovative approach to problems, her ability to motivate others, and her recognition on the national level for her accomplishments."

**Christine Shafer**, employed at Morristown Medical Center for over three years, is a Clinical Coordinator for Pediatrics, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, and the Aresty Day Hospital. She is working to complete her Pediatric Nurse Practitioner degree. The courses she is taking will enhance her ability to assess the pediatric patients for whom she cares at the Goryeb Children's Hospital of MMC. Her supervisor indicates that she is, "adored by patients and their families, and seen as someone who always delivers no matter what," by her peers.

**Kimberly Venturella** has been employed at MMC for thirteen years and was promoted to the Clinical Coordinator position in the Center for Digestive Health. Her enthusiasm for promoting Colorectal Cancer Awareness has earned her the title of "Colon Cheerleader" by the administrative staff. Kimberly uses scholarship funding to attain her BSN. Kimberly's supervisor described her as someone who is, "a high level performer, and is energetic, knowledgeable, and committed." She further states that, "Kim raises the educational bar for the digestive health employees as well, through her commitment to enhancing her own education."



## Scholarship Awards continued

**Ginell Walker-Way** has managed the Cardiac Cath Lab at MMC as well as the Cath Lab and Electrophysiology Lab at Overlook for the past 5 years. She is completing her final year in the MBA program at Seton Hall. As chairperson for the Code STEMI committee since its inception in 2007, she has been instrumental in decreasing by 50% the time from door to cath lab of emergent cardiac patients. This was the result of a collaborative effort of which she is extremely proud. Her supervisor reports that Ginell is "a star performer who consistently exceeds expectations and continually advances her team to provide outstanding patient care."

In reviewing the outstanding applicant pool, the Scholarship Committee noted some commendable similarities among all candidates. All were well respected by their supervisors and peers, continuously endeavored to enhance their skills, were dynamically engaged in both the work place and their community, and consistently excelled in their performance ranking. Lucky for their patients, these high-achievers are all employees at Morristown Medical Center.

The Scholarship Committee applauds the high level of achievement displayed by the recipients and thanks all candidates who submitted an application. We welcome, value and encourage your interest.

As part of the application process, a reference form completed by a direct supervisor of the applicant had to be submitted. The committee is most appreciative of all supervisors who completed these form on behalf of the candidates. This information is very important when deciding between outstanding applicants.

Applications for the Scholarship Program for academic year 2011/2012 will be available July 1, with a submission deadline date of Oct. 1, 2011.

The Women's Association strongly urges any employee of MMC or ARI interested in applying to the Scholarship Program to contact the office of Karen Johnson, WAMMC Executive Assistant, 973-971-5480 or [kjohnson@atlantichhealth.org](mailto:kjohnson@atlantichhealth.org).

The Scholarship Program is funded entirely by donations. Anyone wishing to make a contribution to this extremely worthwhile program should contact Karen Johnson. WAMMC thanks you in advance for your generosity!



## *A Note of Thanks to our President, Tina Mulhare*

The Women's Association thanks President, Tina Mulhare, on her tremendously successful term as our leader. Tina has devoted much time and effort towards strengthening and growing our organization, defining its importance as a vital member of Morristown Medical Center's family and heightening community awareness of our businesses and fundraisers. Tina's leadership has encouraged us to exceed our goals and to use our skills, talents and imaginations in achieving success for the Women's Association. During Tina's term, our membership has increased, our fundraising efforts have broken previous records, and we have made significant contributions to improve MMC's facilities and programs. And thanks to Tina...we do it all while "contributing with passion." Tina will remain on the Executive Board as Past President and will serve on the Association Board as the chair for Long Range Planning.

### **DUES PAYMENT REMINDER**

Membership dues are paid annually each calendar year. Most sincere thanks to the 575+ members who promptly returned payment in response to the January 2011 dues mailing. A reminder mailing was sent in late May to members whose 2011 dues have not yet been received. Dues envelopes should be returned to incoming Assistant Treasurer, **Barbara Bugen, 42 Woodland Road, New Vernon, NJ 07976.**

This will be the last issue of *The Voice* for those members whose dues remain unpaid. We don't want to lose any of our valued members and ask that you respond if you received a second dues mailing.

It has been my pleasure having served as Assistant Treasurer during Tina Mulhare's term as President. To Karen Johnson, members who serve on the Board, others who volunteer and support WAMMC events, and all who've sent in dues, thank you.

***Kristi Davis***  
**Your membership is appreciated!**

# 2011 Women's Association Annual Meeting

The 118<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Women's Association held on April 14<sup>th</sup> was a success on all accounts – the weather was beautiful, the membership attendance was strong, lunch was delicious and conversation delightful, the speakers were informational and motivational and the membership awards and recognitions were well-deserved!

With a very full agenda, Women's Association President, Tina Mulhare, welcomed attendees with opening remarks and acknowledgements and kept on task starting with a Morristown Medical Center update from Dr. David Shulkin, President, MMC and VP, Atlantic Health followed by a tribute to the Women's Association from Dr. Mark Mandell, Chairman, Department of Emergency Medicine for the \$1 million gift to the Emergency Department Expansion Campaign. Dr. Mandell presented a replica of the plaque honoring the Women's Association that will appear in three locations in the new Emergency Department.

The business portion of the meeting included election of officers and membership acknowledgements. The membership voted unanimously to accept the following slate of new officers for the 2011-2013 term: Beth Wiperman, President; Anne Fritz, Vice President; Dannette Merchant, Vice President; and Barbara Bugen, Assistant Treasurer. Outgoing officers, Tina Mulhare, Katherine Sheeleigh, Louetta Shiolen and Kristi Davis were also recognized for their contributions to the organization.

Each year at the annual meeting, the Women's Association is pleased to recognize members and volunteers who exemplify outstanding service to the organization. The awards span various categories as defined by the New Jersey Hospital Association (NJHA). Tina Mulhare proudly presented the following awards:

**The Membership Development Award** is presented to members who surpassed membership goals for the year.

This year's recipients were Samantha Ekert and Dana Browning for building and developing the newly-established Chatham Twig with 45 members.

**The Rookie of the Year Award** is presented to new, active members whose contributions enhanced the success of the Women's Association. Lissa Dohl and Linda Schweitzer received this award for creating innovative research options and establishing a catalogue/inventory system for the Art Committee, and embracing art at Morristown Medical Center.

**The Leadership and Achievement Award** was presented to Art Committee Chairs Anne Fritz and Linda Reeves for creating an ideal, highly motivated, highly effective committee by leading their team and conveying the role of art in hospital life as part of a healing culture at MMC.

**The Catalyst of the Year Award** is for a member who is acknowledged for exceptional service on a project. This year's recipient is Gayle Khoury, Twig Chair, for her ambitious work in energizing the Twigs, writing a Twig handbook, and creating a team of Twig leaders.

**The Service and Recognition Award** was presented to Special Holidays Chairpersons Kathy Wilkerson and Mary Courtemanche for years of reorganizing and streamlining the committee. By engaging a team of 50+ volunteers, they bring the spirit of the holiday season to patients, staff,

and visitors at Morristown Medical Center.

**The Fundraising Achievement Award** is presented to members who met or surpassed fundraising goals. Due to the success of the record breaking 2010 Mansion in May, the Women's Association was not only able to double our pledge to the Emergency Department Expansion Campaign, but also did so two years ahead of schedule. MIM co-chairs Susan Bruen and Anne Rooke accepted this award on behalf of the association and all the members and volunteers who made it happen.

Membership Chair Cathy Markee presented member **Loyalty Awards** to Betty Gilfillan, Carmeline Loughman and Dea Wehrin for 25 years of devoted membership. In the past year, the Women's Association was pleased to add 95 new members, the following of whom were in attendance at the Annual Meeting: Patti Benedetti, Lola Burling, Anita McGuire, Hoang-Q Nguyen, Susan Novak, Allison O'Sullivan, Suzanne Seaman, Terry Thompson, and Terry Zimmer.

A special presentation was made to the **Round Towner Twig** which is disbanding after over 35 years of contributing with passion. Original members Phyllis Beck, Beverly Riley and Kathy Nish were recognized along with Cornelia Anderson, Kathleen Badcock, Michele Cameron, Nancy Delaney, Barbara DeLotto, Kathy Lindgren, Irene Mahr, Chris McIntyre, Colette Mongey, Norrie Oelkers and Terry Zimmer.

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*Members of the Round Towner Twig enjoy the Annual meeting. This Twig is disbanding after over 35 years.*



# ANNOUNCING 2011 ELEANOR AWARD RECIPIENT MICHELLE MESZAROS

First presented in 1982, and named after dedicated volunteer Eleanor Volonte, the Eleanor Award is the highest honor given by the Women's Association to one of its members. It is given to the "busy bee" who has distinguished herself in service to our organization and to Morristown Medical Center over many years. The Eleanor Award recipient is presented with a beautiful gold bee pin that represents our organization's deep appreciation for years of unselfish service. At our Annual Meeting held on April 14<sup>th</sup>, Women's Association President Tina Mulhare was pleased to announce **Michelle Meszaros** as this year's recipient of the Eleanor Award.



*Tina Mulhare and Michelle Meszaros at the Annual Meeting*

Michelle joined the Women's Association in 1992 and has been contributing at many levels ever since. In her various roles within the organization, she has exhibited creativity, project management, team building and leadership. She has held many positions requiring many different skills.

Michelle began with the Township Twig in 1992 holding executive board positions including treasurer and co-president. Recognizing her capabilities early on, she has been part of numerous fundraisers including Fantasyland, Wild West Weekend, Denim n' Diamonds, Postcards from South Beach, Cinco de Mayo and most recently, the Royal Watch. Her involvement in our signature fundraiser, Mansion in May, spans the range starting from 1994 with Bayley Ellard through 2010 at Fawn Hill Farm, as she served in diverse positions including Personnel, Dancin' in the Mansion, Admissions, Preview Gala, Treasury, Secretary, Special Events and Underwriting. Additionally, she has been on the Women's Association Board in several positions including Bargain Box Chair, Long Range Planning, Nominating Chair, Finance Chair and Scholarship.

Not surprisingly, Michelle has also been on the Executive Board of the Women's Association as Assistant Treasurer from 1995-2000, Treasurer from 2000-2002, Vice President from 2005-2007 and President from 2007-2009 when she initiated the Green Book resource guide, updated our website and spearheaded our *Easy, Elegant, Entertaining* cookbook. Most recently, Michelle is finishing her term as Past President and will continue on the Association Board as Data Manager.

Many thanks and congratulations to Michelle for her loyalty, dedication and service to our organization and to Morristown Medical Center.

## *Annual Meeting continued,*

In closing the awards ceremony, President Tina Mulhare presented the organization's most prestigious honor, **The Eleanor Award, to Michelle Meszaros** for her many years of outstanding service and dedication to the Women's Association (please see related article at left).

The meeting concluded with our guest speaker presentation, "Letters to My Younger Self®: Women's Wit and Wisdom Learned the Hard Way" by Ellyn Spragins, noted author, founder and CEO of What I Know Now® Enterprises. Her presentation inspired everyone to reflect on who they are today and how they got there through their own public and personal struggles and successes. This wisdom is powerful and certainly motivating for all of us as well as other women that touch our lives every day. Ms. Spragins autographed copies of her books which were available for purchase by attendees. A portion of all proceeds from the sales was generously donated to benefit Morristown Medical Center.

As our membership continues to grow – we are nearly 900 members strong – we look forward to yet another successful year of contributing with passion!

## **2011-2013 WAMMC Incoming President Beth Wipperman**



*Best Wishes to Beth Wipperman, incoming Women's Association president.*





# Twig Corner



*The Township Twig hosted their spring fundraiser, Love Your Life, Express Your Style which included a luncheon, gift auction and fashion show featuring models Tina Mulhare and Janice Beck. The event was very successful raising \$12,000 that will benefit the Integrative Medicine Mind Body Center.*



*The Cromwell-Olive Twig recently donated \$2,000 towards the Women's Association Scholarship Fund. Since 1996, this Twig has raised over \$94,000 for the Women's Association. From left to right, sitting - Gale Carlin, Judy Lewis and Helen Eaton; standing - Fran Loewensteiner, Rose Bielicki, Elizabeth Smith, and Basilia Spiridon.*



*Twigs Take Charge - Officers from all 6 Twigs met to share ideas and make plans for this key component of the Women's Association. Seated left to right: Gayle Khoury, Basilia Spiridon, Amy Crandall, Samantha Ekert. Standing: Kara Korn, Suzanne Voorhees, Linda Kearns, Beth Wipperman, Tina Mulhare, Phyllis Hendry, Margaret Clossey, Gina McShane, Kate Hein.*