The Philanthropy of Blood Donation

by Jim Leenhouts

As I “pen” this tribute to philanthropy and to underscore my passion of blood donation, I peer at my computer screen and watch my words take shape. I peer through a thin, human tissue only 700 microns thick donated by a person unknown to me to the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute that allows me, with some high installation technology, to easily differentiate commas from periods. Without the unknown donor’s gift, I would probably be prevented from even seeing the computer screen as other than a large night light. No tennis for me, no boating, no teaching while being aided by a strong magnifying glass puck to enjoy a picture of our first great grandchild. What a difference this donor makes every day – I wish he or she could only know my immense gratitude.

There is hardly a family at Ocean Reef that can search through their history without finding that the philanthropy of donating and receiving organs, tissues or blood has played a similar role in their well-being.

“Gallon Donor”

Blood became a passion in my later teenage years in Alexandria, Virginia and Tucson, Arizona during and after WWII. It was a time of all-out mobilization of everybody of every age – I did tinfoil collection, home-carved model wood Japanese “Zeros” for aircraft identification, war bond stamps, and my blood. Shortly after VJ day, I had become a very proud, “Gallon” donor. Oh, how I wish I had not lost that wallet that held the American Red Cross wallet card that recorded each pint of O positive blood I donated. Pictures of medics administering blood on the battlefield made me think it was my blood.

Seven to Ten - Who’s Counting?

I have made a strong effort to donate every year since which, if correct, would bring me to a grand total of ten gallons. But, I have missed a few years due to blood thinner use. I am still very confident that I am well over seven gallons.

Yuri Mikolay, Executive Director of the Ocean Reef Community Foundation recently presented me with a book, The Almanac of American Philanthropy whose author, Karl Zinsmeister, will speak at Ocean Reef on Monday, April 3 about the marvelous effects of philanthropy. Sadly, I do not find my name in his book for the obvious reason that blood doesn’t get counted – but it should. There are no stronger connections to be shared between humans than our blood and our love.

Collect Your Reward

And the nice part is that blood donation is only mildly discomforting – I generally fall asleep – and about an hour to save a life. Unlike an organ donor, with the exception of a kidney, one usually has to collect the reward in another world. Blood donation philanthropy allows you to collect that reward here in this world – a more or less instant gratification. Your blood will probably be used within three days.

Join me Wednesday or Thursday, April 5 or 6 at the Ocean Reef Medical Center. You will be accommodated without an appointment but if you need the assurance of a specific time – call 305-797-7028. Be sure to credit your favorite club as the clubs compete for bragging rights based on blood donors.

Read about the Sportsman’s Challenge on page 8.

Philanthropy from the Latin “philanthropia” or love of mankind.

Mass Notification System

by Josh Angle

ORCA System Coordinator

Ocean Reef Community Association Public Safety has acknowledged the need for a Mass Notification System, which is a system that can immediately distribute urgent messages to a small or large group of people that are entered into the system.

Beginning April 2017, ORCA’s Mass Notification System (CodeRED) will be officially “online” and ready for use. Public Safety will use this new system to quickly deliver messages to the community or specific individuals within our community and will be used for general community concerns as well as emergency notifications.

Be sure to store/save the below phone numbers into your phone contacts, as the Mass Notification Calls will originate from these numbers.

Emergency Notifications – 1-866-419-5000
General Notifications – 1-855-969-4636

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Island, Easter Sunrise Services, Easter Basket Deliveries right in your own home, Easter Bunny Breakfast in The Ocean Room, our legendary Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Dinner Buffets and more! For more information on holiday events, please call 305-367-6516.

Equity Thank You Celebration Wednesday, April 19

In honor of a wonderful winter season, we’re hosting a Thank You bash for all of our Equity Members. Reflect on this year’s wonderful memories while enjoying a delicious menu, music, dancing, mingling and more. For additional information, please call 305-367-6618.

Further resources of CodeRED: If you have an iPhone or Android device, visit the iOS app store or Google Play to download the FREE CodeRED Mobile Alert app and stay informed of emergencies. (Location services must be activated on your device in order to work properly).

Getting Ready for Something New: To help educate the community of this vital program, Public Safety will hold a series of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) forums at the Public Safety Headquarters. These forums will be held Monday, March 20 and Wednesday, March 22, at 1 p.m., 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. During these segments we will answer any questions, assist you with downloading and using the app, as well as ensuring your pertinent information is in the system.

Also, like most national agencies, Public Safety will utilize Social Media to aid in getting messages to the public quickly as possible. Alongside ORCA’s Mass Notification System, and The Ocean Reef News (TORN), Public Safety will develop a Twitter account to deliver important community notifications. You can follow Ocean Reef Public Safety on Twitter at @OceanReef_PS.

Food & Wine Festival

April 21 – 23

Have you reserved your spot yet? This year is bigger and better than ever! Enjoy three days of demonstrations from guest chefs, incredible drinks from mixologists, and unforgettable wines served to you by winemakers themselves. Three-day event passes and single day passes are available. For details and registration, please call 305-367-6526.

Cooking Schools

There are four more courses offered this season – and it’s not too late to register! Take a culinary and art tour of Wynwood, become an expert at making authentic homemade Italian Ricotta, and create full meals with fresh produce. For details and registration, please call 305-367-5931.