

THE Bulletin

JULY 2010 Volume 86 Number 7

A black and white portrait of Velynda Makhene, a woman with dark, wavy hair, wearing a dark patterned top and a pearl necklace. She is resting her chin on her hand.

**2010 GCMS
ALLIANCE ISSUE!
VELYNDA MAKHENE,
PRESIDENT**

**TOWN HALL ON:
MSMS'S LEGISLATIVE
PRIORITIES AND
ELECTION UPDATE -
SEPTEMBER 16, 2010**

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THE BULLETIN is published monthly by
The Genesee County Medical Society.

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Peter Thoms, MD

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THE Bulletin

Read by 96% of GCMS members.

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Our Vision

That the Genesee County Medical Society maintain its position as the premier medical society by advocating on behalf of its physician members and patients.

Our Mission

The mission of the Genesee County Medical Society is leadership, advocacy, education, and service on behalf of its members and their patients.

PLEASE NOTE

The GCMS Nominating Committee seeks input from members for nominations for the GCMS Presidential Citation for Lifetime Community Service. The Committee would like to be made aware of candidates for consideration.

THE BULLETIN (USPS 552-820)

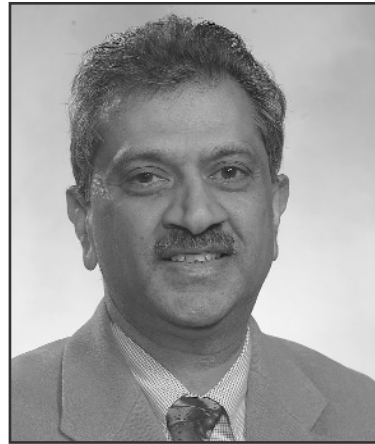
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PARTICIPATE IN ELECTION PROCESS TO PROMOTE OUR INTERESTS

The framers of the U.S. Constitution understood that organized interests would always attempt to exert influence on policy. They developed a constitutional system of republican government that takes organized interests as a given, and thus allows interests to weigh in on policymaking in various ways.

This year there will be elections for various positions including Supreme Court judges, governor, state representatives, senators, and federal representatives. The winners will have great impact on our medical practices. Our reimbursement will depend on their decisions. Your malpractice laws will be decided by them. Our businesses are regulated by them. We need to get involved in this election process to have candidates supportive of our interests get elected. Elections are very expensive. Support candidates with generous financial contributions. Contribute generously



Venkat K. Rao, MD

to your Michigan Doctors political Action Committee (MDPAC). You can also help by endorsing candidates, giving fundraisers and conducting grassroots activities such as get-out-the-vote drives. Please attend fundraisers to show the strength of our medical society. Please let us know of fundraisers you are involved with so we can let our membership know about them.

Please note that people with interests opposite of ours, will be working hard to have their own candidates win. We need to work harder to prevail in this election process.

On September 16 we will be hosting a Town Hall meeting on the MSMS Legislative Agenda, and Election Update featuring Dan Michael, MD, President of MSMS. Please come to hear this important information which impacts you, your family, and your practice!

GCMS MEETINGS - JULY 2010

- Recessed - Legislative Liaison @ GCMS
- 7/7, 7:30 a.m. - Bulletin Committee @ GCMS
- Recessed - Membership Committee @ Grill of India
- Recessed - Finance Committee @ GCMS
- Recessed - GCMS Board of Directors @ GCMS
- Recessed - Community & Environmental Health Committee @ TBA
- Recessed - Practice Managers @ GCMS

ATTENTION!

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GCMS Alliance

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GENESEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY DINNER BUSINESS MEETING

– Thursday, September 16, 2010 –

A Town Hall Meeting on
MSMS's Legislative Priorities and
An Election Update
Dr. Dan Michael, MSMS President

Reservations required by September 13, 2010

Flint Golf Club

3100 Lakewood Dr., Flint, MI 48507

Call Marcia at 810-733-9923 for more information.

THE ALLIANCE 2010: A POSITIVE FORCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

Each year, the July issue of *THE BULLETIN* features the activities and contributions to organized medicine of the Genesee County Medical Society Alliance (GCMSA) for both the past and the coming year.

An alliance is a bond, connection, or an association between individuals or groups of people to further the common interests and goals of the members. The goal of the GCMSA is to work together with physicians to build a healthy community and support the goals of the medical society.



Daniel Ryan, MD

The Alliance was the volunteer arm of the Genesee County Medical Society (GCMS), originally known as the Women's Auxiliary, when organized in the 1930s. This was back in the days when the vast majority of physicians were men and wives were relegated to a subsidiary role in the medical community. Fortunately, times have changed as evidenced by the large numbers of women in the profession, and the energetic role that the GCMSA plays in our area. Now more than 250 members strong, the Alliance is active in both community projects to improve the lives and safeguard the health of county residents and political advocacy for Medicine's important issues.

The GCMSA Health Promotion projects include encouraging high school students to consider a career in the health care field by becoming a Health Careers Volunteer. Free CPR classes are offered to those students who register to volunteer in area hospitals. The Shape Up For Life Challenge encourages regular physical activity as an important ingredient in a healthy lifestyle.

The GCMSA organizes the annual Healing Hands 5K Run/Walk to benefit the Genesee County Free Medical Clinic and has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars over the last several years to keep this important community asset viable. The Alliance actively works with the Genesee County Health Department to promote and provide childhood immunizations throughout the year.

The "Stop America's Violence Everywhere" (SAVE) campaign combats the growing problem of violence as the perceived solution to problems and conflict in our

schools and homes. The Alliance promotes conflict resolution and problem solving materials that can be used for violence prevention educational programs. There is a child's book series that includes the titles, "I Can Handle Bullies", "Hands Are Not For Hitting", "I Can Choose", and "I Can Be Healthy." These books promote values such as kindness to others, honesty, and healthy habits that may not be taught in the home.

The "Reach Out and Read" program is a national effort that advocates literacy and a love of books and reading for underprivileged kids.

Books are distributed to pediatric primary care clinics in deprived areas.

Members of the Alliance Political Action Strike Force have taken your issues to Lansing for face-to-face discussions with legislators on important issues such as the proposal for a tax on physicians to bail out the Medicaid program.

Other activities available to Alliance members include travel, gourmet, investment, and art interest groups. The What's Up Downtown Tour gave members an opportunity to see some new businesses and restaurants in downtown Flint that bodes well for a long awaited revival of the commercial district. There was a Heart Health Brunch at Warwick in February. Past president Beth Schumacher gave a talk on long term care issues in March. The annual Geranium Luncheon is a popular affair that honors the outgoing and welcomes the incoming GCMSA president. The luncheon at Warwick Hills on May 25th commenced the term of Velynda Makhene as the incoming president and thanked Elizabeth Jordan for her service over the past year.

As you can see, the GCMSA is a vital and active partner of the GCMS, far more than any other Alliance group in the state. Check out the website at www.gcmsalliance.com. Better yet, ask your spouse to become a member and take advantage of great opportunities to volunteer, contribute, socialize, and learn.



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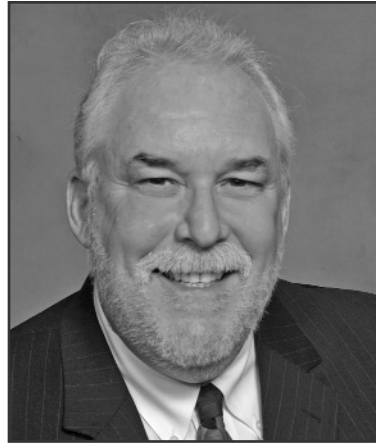
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OUR ALLIANCE PRODUCES!

This is the time each year where we reflect on the wonderful work of the GCMS Alliance. As Alliances experience the buffeting of the ever changing world of physician families, our Alliance continues to produce great outcomes. While its membership has diminished slightly, its productivity has not changed a bit. I would be remiss if I did not mention that the dues are insignificant, and membership by our member spouses would be money well spent.

Please take a moment to review the past years accomplishments of the



Peter Levine, MPH

Alliance which was beautifully lead by Elizabeth Jordan. It is thrilling to see each years Alliance leadership step to the fore and keep the organization moving forward. The core of the Alliance is its members. As in any organization, there is a core group that maintains focus and direction. They are always looking for new ideas and new blood just as the Medical Society does. It is hard not to be excited by this incredible group of volunteers. Take a moment, think about participating with them if you are a spouse and reading this, and with GCMS if you are a physician.

Count On

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Anita Abrol, CPA

As the Managing Principal at Lewis & Knopf, Anita is passionate about undertaking careful planning for her clients. She focuses her practice on providing quality, hands-on service to clients in a variety of industries. This is accomplished by providing prompt, expert advice with a high degree of professionalism and personal service. Anita's comprehensive approach to client service allows her to not only meet the needs of each client, but to serve as a partner in their business and ultimately, their success.



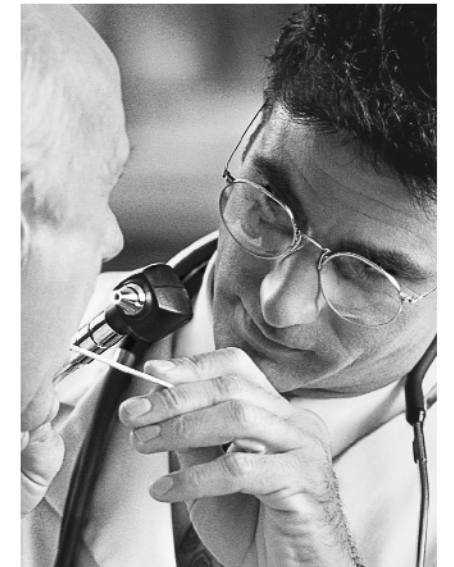
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GREETINGS FROM THE MICHIGAN STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY!

I am honored to be representing our district on the Board of MSMS as of the recent House of Delegates Meeting.

It is my second "tour of duty" on the MSMS board, having been there before as the chairman of the Young Physicians Section.

I am happy to report that the Board is still as high functioning as it was when I last witnessed it up close.

I am also very happy to report that my fellow District Director and our current GCMS president, Dr. Venkat Rao, has been elected chair of the Finance Committee. I am confident that the responsibility he has shown in managing our local finances will carry over to East Lansing.



*S. Bobby Mukkamala, MD
District VI Director*

At the recent HOD we celebrated on Saturday as Michigan has become the 38th state to enact a smoking ban in the workplace. It is refreshing now to be able to dine and socialize without carrying home the cigarette smell on our clothes!

The MSMS will be integral in our practices in the upcoming year as we begin to digest the intricacies of the health care reform bill. I look forward to being able to communicate our members concerns to them and their guidance to you.

Genesee County has the most proactive membership that I have witnessed at the state level. I am honored to represent us and will do my best to carry on our rich tradition of responsible advocacy for our patients and our peers. Thank you.

tradition of responsible advocacy for our patients and our peers. Thank you.

Announcement

GCMS members now entitled to 15% discount on automobile and homeowners insurance.

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at 810-733-9921.



Healing Hands 5K Run/Walk A Success!

This year's Healing Hands 5K Walk/Run, the GCMS Alliance's major gift to the county, was a sight to behold. The number of runners and walkers was at the highest level ever. The event raised more than \$100,000 for the Genesee County Free Medical Clinic. This event is a marvel of organization, and is a credit to the GCMS Alliance.



Geranium Brunch 2010

By Elizabeth Jordan, PhD

On Tuesday May 25, 2010 Genesee County Medical Society Alliance held its annual Geranium Brunch at Warwick Hills Country Club in Grand Blanc to honor all past presidents and welcome the 2010 - 2011 President Mrs. Velynda Makehene. 2009-2010 President Dr. Elizabeth Jordan, thanked the Board and officers in particular for their hard work and dedication to the organization during the past year. Executive Director Mr.



Peter Levine and Administrator Mrs. Marcia Gzym were recognized for their tireless support of GCMSA.

Dr. S. Bobby Mukkamala President Elect of GCMS and an Alliance member was the guest speaker. Dr. Mukkamala thanked the Alliance for working on behalf of their spouses and for making Genesee County a better place. In particular Dr. Mukkamala noted the efforts GCMSA made during the past year to support the development in downtown Flint by utilizing facilities in the area for meetings.

Attendees enjoyed fruit salad, chicken crepes, salmon, crustless quiche with rolls and orange sorbet served by the efficient staff at Warwick Hills. Past President Rula Ali-Bakr administered the oath to Velynda Makhene, President, Rosa Wang, President Elect, Oya Alghanem, Secretary and Amita Desai, Treasurer. Past President Liesbeth Fernandez gave the Past President's Pin to Elizabeth Jordan and welcomed her to the Past President's Club.

Special thanks to Marianne Almeida for planning the menu and hosting, Cheryl Thoms for creating the program, Pete Levine and Cheryl Thoms for taking pictures, and to Dr. Mukkamala for being the guest speaker.



COMMENTS OF BOBBY MUKKAMALA, MD

It is an honor to be able to address you this morning at the Annual Geranium Luncheon. I address you today with great appreciation of your efforts, great admiration for your energy, and great respect for your leadership.

It is with great regret that I came to the realization this morning that after 10 years of membership in the GCMSA, this is my first annual luncheon.

I will do my best to not miss this event in the future.

To Dr. Elizabeth Jordan: I wish you heartfelt congratulations. As I read your final President's Message column, I was reminded of your efforts to expose our Alliance to the progress we are making in Downtown Flint.

The medical community in our area has thrived in years past. This success, while certainly attributable to the talent of our physicians and their families, was also due in no small part to the economic vitality of Flint as the headquarters of General Motors.

Now, as we see that goliath of a company restructured due to economic hardship, we also see our town going through the same remodeling. And now, it is not the automotive manufacturing sector that makes up the lion's share of our jobs base. It is the medical sector.

So, thank you Dr. Jordan for reminding us of our history and keeping us engaged in the rebirth of our downtown. A special thanks for taking our members to my restaurant!

Thank you to all of our past presidents for giving their time to better our community's health and welfare. I am a firm believer that any progress we make in bettering our community will come from the efforts of engaged individuals.

It is from the involvement of past GCMS AND GCMSA presidents that I have observed the true impact of philanthropy. That commitment can be displayed in the form of collecting personal hygiene items for the "Doctors And Their Families" drives, or running 5k in the rain (or in this year's case, beautiful sunshine), for our Healing Hands event, or marching on Saginaw street for our Peace March, singing "We Shall Overcome" to declare our collective commitment to changing our culture of violence in our inner city to one of non violence in the mold of Gandhi and King.

As a physician I often find myself stuck in the litany of daily office and operating-room headaches, it is easy to lose sight of those things in our lives that are truly important.

The GCMSA serves for me as a moral compass for my profession. You do this by identifying those issues that are very much related to the medical community but that would otherwise be under my radar. Thank you for keeping my focus on the things that truly matter.

Later this year, I will assume the presidency of our GCMS. In doing this I follow in the long list of physicians who sought to better, not themselves, but our profession and our community. I share in this larger goal.

We at GCMS now enjoy our largest membership in our history and yet we find ourselves in a dire financial situation. It will be a challenge to maintain our focus at a time when most organizations in similar situations are in a mode of severe contraction. But with prudent planning, scrutiny, and most of all dissemination of the news of the work that we do, I am confident that we will emerge stronger than ever.

So in conclusion, it is my honor to be asked to address you formally. I have admired the work of the Alliance for years and I know many of you personally. I look forward to continuing to work together in our partnership to better the lives of our community.

Thank you,
Bobby Mukkamala, MD



Sherri Stephens, President - Financial Advisor, RJFS

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YOUR \$\$\$ AT WORK

- GCMS aggressively opposed the proposed 3% Physician Tax on gross receipts
- GCMS assertively supported the AMA's position demanding a permanent fix of the Medicare SGR, to avoid tremendous future problems
- GCMS worked with a third-party payor on enhancing physician reimbursement for specific after hours activities
- GCMS shepherded the Greater Flint Health Coalition Prompt Payment Task Force Position Paper through the Health Coalition Board approval process
- GCMS established physician retention and recruitment components to the Greater Flint Health Coalitions top three request list presented to the auto czar of the Obama administration
- GCMS continues to aggressively pursue changes to the tort system in an effort to reduce cost and heartache to the medical community

Genesee County Medical Society

Board of Directors Meeting – April 27, 2010

MINUTES

Motion:

That the Budget Report for the period ending March 31, 2010 be approved as presented. The Motion Carried.

Motion:

That all requests for membership be approved as presented.

Requesting Transfer of Membership:

Stephen A. Morris, MD

Requesting Reinstatement:

Denny Martin, DO	Shaheen Mohammed, MD
Fengxia Qiao, MD	Nikhil Vora, MD

Requesting Change of Membership from A-PIT to A:

Shivani Choudhary, MD	Hytham Fadl, MD
Mohamed A. Khedr, MD	

Requesting Change from A to R:

Louise Desgranges, MD	Philip H. Hardy, MD
Alvin Judd, MD	Daniel L. Walter, MD

The Motion Carried.

GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM APPOINTS ALLIANCE MEMBER

Jayashree Kommareddi of Grand Blanc, community activist, is appointed for a term expiring July 15, 2013 to the Michigan Women's Commission.

The Michigan Women's Commission focuses on improving the quality of life for women in the state by studying and reviewing the status of Michigan women, directing attention to critical issues that women face, recommending methods to overcome discrimination, promoting methods for women to develop their skills, conducting surveys and establishing advisory committees on vital issues, and recognizing the accomplishments of women in Michigan.

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Health Career Student Volunteer Program

The Alliance is pleased to welcome Lisa Hasselbach, the new Volunteer Services Director at Hurley Medical Center. Lisa is filling the position of Debi Peters, who has retired after 31 years of dedicated service in volunteer services which has included our outstanding Health Career youth volunteer program for high school students in grades 10-12.

Please note the following information if your child desires to become a Health Career volunteer:
Student Volunteer Orientations scheduled for the school year 2010-2011:
Monday, September 20 and Wednesday, September 23;
Monday, January 17 and Wednesday, January 19;
Monday, March 21 and Wednesday, March 23.

For further information, please contact Cindy Wren-Swart, (Health Career chairman) or Mary Lou Mathias, Health Promotion chairman.

GCMSA BOARD



ROSA WANG PRESIDENT-ELECT

Rosa was born and raised in Taipei, the capital and business center of Taiwan. She is happily married to Stephen Wang, a Urologist practicing in Flint. They have three children - Stephanie and James are attorneys, and Melissa is still in college. Rosa has been actively involved with the Genesee County Medical Society Alliance for many years and has served on the board as Web Master for the past six years. Besides volunteering for GCMSA, she also picked up the Web Liaison position at the Michigan State Medical Society Alliance since 2008. She will continue to serve in that position next year. Rosa has enjoyed the many activities GCMSA has offered for physicians' spouses, and she continues to believe in the importance of volunteering her time to help strengthen this organization she loves. Rosa is looking forward to assisting Velynda as much as she can to make this coming year a successful and eventful year.



OYA AGABIGUM SECRETARY

Oya was born and raised in Istanbul, Turkey. She was studying at the Istanbul Technical University to become a Chemical Engineer when she met her husband Mehmet. They married in 1978, and moved to Detroit, Michigan, where Mehmet was doing his Medical Residency. There, Oya continued her studies at Wayne State University. Later, they moved to Flint, where Mehmet started his Medical Practice.

At this time, Oya decided to follow her passion in the field of Art and Design. She attended the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where she received a BFA degree. She soon started her own business called Art In Graphics; where she worked as an Interior Consultant and Graphic Designer.

Oya and Mehmet have three children. Oya had been an active member of the Medical Alliance in the past, but took time off to focus her attention on raising her children. With grown children, she dedicates her time to the Genesee County Medical Society Alliance causes.



AMITA DESAI TREASURER

Education/Degree:
Bachelor of Science in
Microbiology
Medical Technology

Interests:
Reading, Travel,
Watching Movies

Religious View:
The best religion is the one that gets you closest to God. It is the one that makes you a better person.

Favorite Quote:
"Being happy is not a matter of destiny. It is a matter of option."
- Dalai Lama

Genesee County Medical Society Alliance Annual Report 2009 - 2010

By D. Elizabeth Jordan PhD, Immediate Past-President

Our theme this year was "Celebrate the colors of your life." During the year we explored the meaning of color in our lives and how it affects our personalities. We also explored the city of Flint and observed how the city is changing now that the glory days of the automobile industry are over.

We began the year with several members attending the Annual Washington Update with Congressman Dale Kildee at the GCMS office. GCMS and GCMSA members joined in a wonderful discussion about our Health System Reform. Several members were able to voice their concerns and ask questions of Congressman Kildee and his staff. We continued our legislative work by attending the "White Coat March" on the Capitol in Lansing to protest Physician Tax. GCMSA members join GCMS members at their legislative committee meetings in the GCMS office on the first Monday of every month.

Our first program activity in September 2009 was our annual International Luncheon at the home of Dr. Danish Alamy in Grand Blanc. It was wonderful to welcome members from Washtenaw, Ingham, and Midland to our meeting. We were honored to have as our special guests Michigan State President Mrs. Carol Horowitz and Executive Director Gina Gibson.

We joined the Genesee County community and participated in the Annual Peace March held in downtown Flint on October 3, 2009 and led by our own Alliance member Sue Kirby. At the Rally Alliance

members gave out "Hands are not for Hitting" booklets to all children attending the Rally. Prizes donated by the Alliance will go to children participating in a citywide writing contest in the spring.

On October 28th, 2009, our membership meeting took the form of a Walking Tour of Downtown Flint where we toured the new Rowe Building including the newly designed loft living spaces on the upper floors and business offices below, as well as the new University of Michigan-Flint dormitories. We also enjoyed a presentation by the Downtown Development Association and lunch prepared by Chef Louis Fernandez at the recently opened Club 501 Bar and Grille. Highlight of the day was a visit (and pictures) with Flint's Mayor Dayne Walling. We shared with the Mayor many of the volunteer efforts of GCMSA and listened to some of his plans for downtown Flint.

The GCMSA Ball committee worked hard and was able to achieve a successful annual President's Ball which was held at Warwick Hills Golf Club on November 7, 2009. Many Alliance and Society members danced the night away in the ambiance of the beautifully decorated ballroom and enjoyed scrumptious food. Theme for the night was "Eyes on the future" in honor of out-going GCMS President Dr. John Waters and sitting GCMSA President Dr. Elizabeth Jordan while welcoming incoming GCMS President Dr. Venkat Rao. Some past presidents of GCMS and GCMSA were able to enjoy the evening. A few members of the GCMS board had to be 'beamed in' in star trek fashion as

they were attending the AMA interim meeting.

In January 27, 2010 our board meeting was followed by our regular membership meeting where we continued our theme on colors as we explored our personality traits. Group members self selected traits most like themselves to determine whether they were blue, green, gold or orange. Having selected traits we then compared them to what those categories tell us about ourselves and how we should use that information to function as a group. The group leader had everyone declare their "color" and then we "celebrated the colors of our lives!" What fun to share and learn about each other!

In February we observed "Women's Heart Health Month" while enjoying lunch at Woodfield Golf Club. Members wore red to bring attention to women's heart health issues. This meeting was hosted by our own Health Promotions Chair Mary Lou Mathias who invited a speaker from the American Heart Association to discuss important information on how to stay heart healthy and what to do in an emergency. Attendees were given a red dress pin from the American Heart Association.

In March we explored Long Term Care in the ambience of the Historical St. Paul's Episcopal Church in downtown Flint. This meeting was conducted by past President Beth Schumacher who shared her expertise in this area.

On April 20th we have scheduled a play day for physician families at the Children's Museum in

celebration of Month of the Young Child. Adults had as much fun as the children and everyone enjoyed playing with the many hands on learning activities. Our Health Careers program continues to service many teenagers. This popular program chaired by Cindy Swart is full. Participants log numerous hours as they work in local hospitals.

We have passed out more than 2,000 "Hands are Not for Hitting" books to area schools this year.

We have collected \$1,500 for the American Medical Association Foundation this year.

Marianne Almeida chairs the Healing Hands Committee which coordinates the Healing Hands Race with the Nurses group. They have already raised over \$90,000 for the race on May 15, 2010. This money supports the Genesee County Free Medical Clinic serving people in the community who do not have insurance benefits.

Lakshmi Tummala is working with Hurley Hospital to encourage Resident Physician Spouses to join us.

Cheryl Thoms continues to chair the Friendship Group - mainly our senior members but anyone who would like to socialize may join them for lunch at least once per quarter.

Barb Pougnet is the current chair of our investment group - Women Who Count. They continue to count some gains and a few losses but are still in business.

Semaj Brown leads our newest interest group - the Butterfly Council which meets every other month to support each other as we practice healthy habits and lifestyle change.

Membership Chair Peter Thoms' hard work has resulted in 17 new members this year. We are pleased to welcome them to our organization.

New this year GCMSA has been invited by two Women's Groups, in Flint and Grand Blanc, to share

insights on Diversity. Attention was drawn to our diverse group when the Flint Journal published an article on the meeting we held at Jay Kommareddi's house last year where we focused on learning about the similarities and differences in our group. Consequently, Beth

Schumacher and Jay Kommareddi along with volunteers from our organization have been sharing information about the various religions, ethnicities etc. that make up GCMSA. We can truly say that we have truly "Celebrated the Colors of our Lives!"



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John Hebert III	1
Gali Subbareddy	1
Tarik Wasfie	1
Barina Zado	1
Ivana Vettrano	1
John Waters	3
Leslie Lemieux Jr	4
Linda Diane Norrell	4
David Wilson	5
Leonard Dias	6
Glen Sullenger	6
Abdelfatah Osman	6
Kamal Hasan	7
Kang Kwon	7
Purushottam Naik	7
James Gibbons	8
Niketa Dani	9
BB Ganatra	9
Fikria Hassan	9
Radwan Alkiek	10
Kathleen Justice-Kirtek	10
Barbara McIntosh	12
AppaRao Mukkamala	14
Koteswara Vemuri	14
Frederick VanDuyne	15
Lawrence Irish	17
Ashvin Patel	18
Shahzad Sadiq	18
Earle McGarvah	19
Jeffrey Mitchell	19
Charles Bodem	20
Jose Fernandez	20
Jaime Ballesteros	21
James Vyskocil	21
John Morrison	21
Farhan Khan	22
Nabil Zaki	23
Allen Turcke	24
Jae Chul Kim	25
Dong Whan Oh	25
Jon Santiago	25
James Knaggs	26
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