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TRANSPLANT SUPPORT ORGANIZATION

Serving Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess,
Bronx Counties and Southern Connecticut



VOL. 21, ISSUE 1

WINTER, 2016

Next Meeting Dates

2/17/2016
03/16/2016

Greenburgh Health Center
295 Knollwood Road
White Plains, NY 10607

Bill Seery



My story begins as it does for all of us, our birthday. Mine is March 3rd, 1952. Life was pretty much uneventful until I was in the second grade and had my first major experience with an Emergency Room. I was bitten by a rather large German Shepard (especially when you're that little). I spent 4 weeks in a hospital bed in my own bedroom and for 3 of those 4 weeks I wasn't allowed out of bed and had to keep my legs elevated. After my recovery and life resumed I was afraid of all large dogs.

Life returned to everyday routines and was pretty much normal. I joined Cub Scouts, then on into Boy Scouts. I enjoyed scouting and eventually ended up working at a scout camp, Camp Sequassen in New Hartford, CT. My first year on staff was in the kitchen and then working on the Rangers Crew. I am an Alumni Member and still visit the camp several times a year. This lasted until I graduated high school and entered the Air Force in 1970. My job was that of a Security Policeman (now called Security Forces). Now for a little twist, I volunteered to become a dog handler (K-9). My parent's reaction was one of complete shock considering my earlier experience with large German Shepherds. After K-9 school my first assignment was working at the Military Working Dog Procurement Center at Lackland AFB. Here I gained great knowledge and experience working with the vast amount of dogs located there, on average approximately 500 of which the majorities were German Shepard's but a few other breeds as well. I then got orders sending me to Southeast Asia. It was there that I met Duke, a Golden German Shepard. He will always be my favorite and who I will never ever forget. Of all the dogs I have handled, in the Air Force, drug dogs for US Customs or those I have personally owned, Duke is the one who will always be by my side.

I began working for the Westchester County Dept. of Correction in 1984 as an officer. Through the years I was promoted to Sergeant and then promoted to my final position as Captain. As a Captain I ran a squad on the day shift at the Penitentiary, and then was made the Director of Training from 2001 to 2005. In June 2005 I was moved to my final position as Accreditation Manager (to comply with national standards for accreditation with the American Correctional Association) and retired in August 2010.

One morning at work after just finishing up a breakfast snack I began to have some abdominal pain. This pain turned out to be the result of an esophageal varices bleed. The date was Monday, March 15, 2004. It was fortunate that I was at work and that the Westchester Medical Center was literally right next door. My wife Lynn always prayed that if something were to happen to me that it would happen at work. God answered her prayers.

CONTINUED ON PG. 4

Transplant Support Organization meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month (with some exceptions) at
Greenburgh Health Center
295 Knollwood Road, White Plains, NY 10607
www.greenburghhealthcenter.com

Schedule for Monthly Meetings

7:00 p.m. — Social Time; 7:30-9:00 p.m.— Meeting and program for evening

February 17 — Members share their “journey to transplant” stories and how it affected them and their caregiver families

Future Meeting Agenda

March 16 - Phoebe Kmeck, Volunteer Manager LiveOnNY will update us on LiveOnNY plans and programs and have a refresher course on volunteerism

April 20 — Dr. Margaret Sewell from Mt. Sinai, will give a talk called "Maintain Your Brain." Dr. Sewell is the Director of the Memory Enhancement Program at Mt. Sinai

For directions to our meeting, donor registration form, and further information, please check our website: www.transplantsupport.org

To contact us by mail please write to:
TSO, 1335 Mace Avenue, Bronx, NY 10469
Or email us: email4tso@gmail.com

We are also on Facebook. Check us out for information and updates.
You do not need to have a Facebook account to visit TSO on Facebook.

To all recipients of this newsletter.
Please send your email address so we may notify you of any last minute changes to our meetings. If you have changed your address recently please let us know so we can update our records.
Please send all correspondence to:

email4tso@gmail.com

The UNOS National Patient Waiting List

Candidates as of 1/29/2016

100,623	patients waiting for a kidney transplant.
14,792	patients waiting for a liver transplant.
1,048	patients waiting for a pancreas transplant.
1,953	patients waiting for a kidney-pancreas transplant.
280	patients waiting for an intestine transplant.
4,167	patients waiting for a heart transplant.
47	patients waiting for a heart-lung transplant.
1,495	patients waiting for a lung transplant.
121,520	TOTAL PATIENTS

Every 12 minutes a new name is added to the waiting list.

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Letter from the Presidents

Dear TSO participants and friends of TSO,

The first letter of our new year really has two purposes, to look backward and to look forward.

Looking backward to 2015, we have many thanks to send out. We have 99 dues-paying participants now; these dues have helped TSO maintain its fiscal stability. We have had generous support from a number of friends of TSO, including Cory Koven from Ambassador Construction and IBM. TSO held its first-ever family picnic in August, 2015, in Harrison, NY. We held our Holiday Party in December and partnered with the American Liver Foundation for a liver re-birthday celebration in October, 2015. We participated in numerous outreach activities on behalf of organ donor registration activities. All-in-all, we had a very good year! We have a strong and dedicated group of volunteers and board members who make all of this possible.

So, let's now talk about 2016. 2016 is an election year, so there should be a great deal of voter registration activity. Along with voter registration will be organ donor registration drives and TSO plans to be a part of the voter registration/organ donor registration activity.

We will hold our family picnic again this year in August so please plan to come and bring your family as we all had a great time getting to know each other on a beautiful, relaxed summer day. We are planning to be at the Greenburgh Town Day in July, an annual event held at Veteran's Park with events open to the entire town, including free swimming. We are also planning several re-birthday events for the Westchester community, including liver, kidney, and heart re-birthday celebrations. Our monthly meetings will continue with interesting topics and excellent speakers. We will even be hearing from some of our members telling their personal transplant stories.

Needless to say, we need you! We need your dues and we need your time. Your volunteer efforts are what makes TSO successful and worthwhile.

Ira Copperman and Gerard Marinaccio
Co-Presidents, TSO

TSO Meetings - 4th Quarter 2015/1st Quarter 2016

TSO continued its outstanding meeting program in the 4th Quarter of 2015.

In October, Marissa Argentina from the National Kidney Fund (NKF) discussed the opportunities TSO members and participants have to sign up to be a mentor. The NKF, along with several other organizations in the transplant community, sponsors a mentoring program. Through this program, volunteers can talk with other people about their experiences in the transplant process. Please contact Bill Becker for further details.

In November, Aisha Tator, the Executive Director of the New York Alliance for Donation (NYAD), discussed the past and future legislative activity in New York State on behalf of organ donation and donor registration. Aisha will call on us in the future for support of the campaigns beginning in 2016.

No meeting was held in January, 2016. Our next regularly scheduled meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 17, 2016, at Greenburgh Town Hall starting at 7 PM. Gerard Marinaccio and Bill Becker will share their stories of their journey to transplantation and how it affected them and their caregiver families.

On March 16, 2016, Phoebe Kmeck, Volunteer Manager from LiveOnNY, will meet with us. Phoebe will give us an update on LiveOnNY plans and programs and will conduct a refresher course on volunteerism.

TSO is always looking for new ideas for meetings. Please send in your suggestions to our meeting chair, Glenda Daggert - gdaggert@gmail.com

I remember seeing her at the foot of the gurney I was on and that is all I remembered until sometime during the afternoon of Wednesday March 17th. I learned that I had spent the past 2 days in ICU, and that I complained about the machines beeping, nope no recollection of it. Now I got the news as to what happened to me. I was told I'd had an esophageal varices bleed and had I not been at work when it occurred that I would not have survived. Lynn continued to explain what I missed and it was quite a bit. She told me that she was waiting in a hallway as I was having an endoscopy and a doctor who came out introduced himself to her as Dr. Wolf and began to explain what was happening with me. He then told her "we can always do a liver transplant". Life as I knew it changed, really changed!

My whole routine that I was used to was to be no more. After a week in the hospital I got to go home, spent three and a half months at home before being cleared to return to work but only half days. I would go home from work at noon and just fall asleep until Lynn got home from work. She would call me for dinner and sometimes I did not even eat but just got up from my recliner and go straight to bed. Repeat, so it went. Doctor appointments, tests and then they found a blockage in one of my heart arteries which was corrected with a stent. The half days continued, doctor appointments and tests continued until September when Dr. Wolf informed us I was now officially listed on the transplant list.

Now the wait started and the half days continued. On February, 17th 2005 at approximately 9:30 pm I received "The Call". I was told that they might have a liver for me and prepare to come in and they would call back. At 10 pm they called and told me to come in.

It has been 10 years and on February, 18th 2016 it will become 11 years since my transplant.

It is amazing how we can remember specific dates and times but I can't remember when I began my journey with TSO. It has been a wonderful journey with strangers who become friends and I thank ALL the members for their support, help and understanding. I look forward to the future.....!

News from LiveOnNY

Donor Registration Day After a year of planning, LiveOnNewYork led an all-hands on-board effort to register the largest number of donors in a single day. On Tuesday, October 6, 2015, staff and volunteers went to shopping centers, hospitals, malls, college and university campuses - anywhere there would be an audience - and succeeded in enrolling more than 3000 people.

TSO gave its support to the LiveOnNY efforts with a registration table at Greenburgh Town Hall. And we were ably represented by our members: Donna Banks, Bill Becker, Helen Bellhouse, Nancy Block, Anthony Bonelli, Ron Cohen, Ike Copperman, Glenda Daggert, Richard Fine, George Johnson, Gerard Marinaccio, Janet Ocasio, Pat Tomasulo, Suzane Sadofsky, and David Verge. We thank all of them for volunteering their time and support!

Sponsors Hospital Visits LiveOnNY has a dedicated staff that visits donor hospitals across its service area, from Long island to Dutchess County. For the most part, the LiveOnNY staff talk to operating room, ICU and CCU staff about organ donation outcomes and activities.

This year in the holiday season, the LiveOnNY staff did something different during its visits to these donor hospitals. Transplant recipients accompanied the OPO staff on the visits to these hospitals. These visits were a way of showing the hospital staffs, who often work tirelessly on behalf of donor activities, what became of their efforts as part of the organ donor process.

Without exception, these visits can be the most rewarding activity that a recipient can do. Showing the hospital staff how tragedy and despair can result in life and hope is an immensely important task.

We strongly urge any recipient to do two things to honor their donor: write a thank you letter to the donor family and schedule a visit with LiveOnNY to a donor hospital.

Volunteer Reception Following its triumphant organ donor registration day event, LiveOnNY hosted its volunteers to a Volunteer Reception on Tuesday, November 17, 2015.

Volunteers from all over the service area supported by LiveOnNY were greeted at Motivo, a club located in New York's Flatiron District. Guests heard from a number of staff discussing LiveOnNewYork's achievements in 2015.

TSO members attended this reception, and we look forward to our continued association with LiveOnNewYork and helping them fulfill their mission.

Join the TSO Board!

Besides the volunteers who participate in our public-facing events, TSO needs people willing to join our Board. The board is responsible for overall direction, both with programs and finances, for TSO's activities. The main requirement to join the Board is that you are a dues-paying member.

There are 4 board meetings a year at Greenburgh Town Hall, where the regular meetings occur as well. Board members are expected to serve on one or more of the 5 standing committees as well as to participate in community events, such as donor registration drives, the family picnic, and the holiday party.

But mostly, Board members are asked for their opinions and guidance to keep TSO running smoothly. Please consider joining our Board. Send a note to Gerard Marinaccio or Ike Copperman with your interest or questions.

TSO Committees

There are five standing committees as part of TSO's Board. TSO is always looking for willing participants to lend a hand on any of these committees. All of TSO Board Members take part in committee activities; they are an important part of making TSO a success for its members and its place in the community. The committees and their responsibilities are listed below. If you have any interest in joining any of these committees, please contact a board member.

Marketing and membership - creating marketing materials and promoting activities to increase TSO membership

Programs - developing speaker activities and events, such as registration, coordination with other support groups, support outreach; managing contacts at transplant centers, creating a board level volunteer coordinator; and interacting with LiveOnNewYork

High school outreach and scholarship - promoting high school activities in support of organ and tissue donation and marketing our scholarship

Public advocacy - tracking legislative and executive activities, developing TSO positions, coordinating with other relevant groups

Treasury and fundraising - creating new levels of membership and soliciting support, possibly from corporate and business donors

TSO Needs Your Help!

Help us get the word out about TSO and its activities, including its monthly meetings and the many events throughout the year where TSO's members work at blood drives, health fairs, and community events promoting organ donation and registration.

How can you help? If you are at a doctor's office or a hospital clinic appointment, look around for TSO's quarterly newsletter. If you don't see it, let us know.

If you're meeting with your transplant social worker, ask the social worker if he or she knows about TSO. Ask if we could send our newsletter to the hospital for placement in the hospital waiting rooms. And send us the name of your social worker and we'll make sure to add the name to our distribution list.

Help us let everyone know about TSO! Thank you!

TSO Activities in Greenburgh

TSO has now started its third year of meeting in Greenburgh, New York for its monthly activities. And TSO's association with Greenburgh will grow with a new project in 2016.

Paul Feiner, Town Supervisor, has invited TSO members who live in Greenburgh to join the Greenburgh Health Committee. TSO will lend its expertise to Greenburgh on issues that impact health problems, including people in the town of Greenburgh who are on the transplant waiting list. Mr. Feiner is looking to TSO for its knowledge of the medical issues involved as well as the process of transplantation.

We're looking forward to our new activities in Greenburgh!

If you wish to participate with this Committee, please let us know. Contact any member of the Board.

Medicare Part D A Program Financially Out of Control

In 2003, Congress enacted an unfunded program providing coverage for prescription drugs to the Medicare program. It was called the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act.

Republicans were keen to own this legislation. It was widely believed that if the federal government used its buying power to pressure drug companies to cut drug prices, the cost of providing drugs to Medicare recipients would be substantially reduced. But forcing down drug prices would diminish the drug companies' profits and Republicans were adamantly opposed to that. Consequently, despite their oft-repeated opposition to the new entitlement programs, they got behind the new drug benefit, now known as Medicare Part D, and made sure there was no cost-containment provision.

The bill had no dedicated financing for Part D and the entire cost would fall on taxpayers. Congress did not raise the Medicare tax or cut spending to cover Part D. Hence, the deficit increased by virtually the entire cost of the program. Through 2012, Medicare Part D added \$318 billion to the national debt. That same report projects that Medicare Part D will add \$852 billion to the debt over the next 10 years.

The expanding cost of Part D is now a major concern in Washington as politicians try to find ways to cut the annual deficit. In 2008, Congress passed the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act, which authorized the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid to establish a new regulatory review process to identify those drug classes for which Part D plan would be required to include in its formulary.

[A **drug formulary** is a list of prescription **drugs**, both generic and brand name, used by practitioners to identify **drugs** that offer the greatest overall value. A committee of physicians, nurse practitioners, and pharmacists maintain the **formulary**.)

CMS recognized the needs of vulnerable populations and designated six therapeutic classes of medications that would require coverage. However, on January 6, 2014, CMS proposed rule changes to its policy that would limit and redefine the program's protected drug classes and exclude antidepressants and immunosuppressants in 2015 and antipsychotics in 2016.

In March 2014, in response to strong congressional and stakeholder opposition (which included grass roots efforts like that from TSO), CMS announced it would not finalize the proposed rule to eliminate protected status "at this time" but may look to advance these proposed changes "in the future". CMS had planned to cut Part D expenses by \$720 million between 2015 and 2019.

In response, stakeholders said that CMS failed to recognize the significant tangential costs associated with its cost-cutting plan. Limiting beneficiary access to vital medications will drive higher costs in Medicare Part A and B and Medicaid by increasing the need for inpatient care and emergency visits due to the destabilization of patients' conditions.

On March 4, 2015, Senator Charles Grassley submitted a bill, the Medicare Formulary Improvement Act of 2015 (S.648), to the U.S. Senate. This bill requires a sponsor offering a prescription drug plan to include all covered Part D drugs in the six protected classes. Simultaneously Representative Timothy Murphy submitted a sweeping mental health legislation making changes to the protected classes policy related to antidepressants and antipsychotics. The bill would eliminate the mental health drugs from the Medicare exceptions process and plans could no longer appeal to the CMS to exclude them from the formulary.

The Partnership for Part D Access was formed in response to these changes proposed by CMS. The Partnership is a collection of healthcare stakeholders, including patient groups, advocacy organizations and allied members of industry, who are committed to maintaining beneficiary access to the full range of available medications under Medicare Part D. It has taken up the cause of these six protected classes. The Partnership has hired Thorn Run Partners, a Washington, D.C. lobbying firm, to work with them to accomplish its goals.

The Partnership has called on local support groups, from time to time, to write Congress in support of the Part D six protected class medications. There are monthly update conference calls explaining what has happened and what is being done for our point of view.

We will keep you updated on the Partnership and Thorn Run's progress as we hear more news.

Discussion of Living Donation

The growing need for kidney donors continues to generate intense discussion about living donation. During December, 2015, the Washington Post ran an extensive number of stories about this topic. Written by leading members of the medical and bio-ethical community, these articles offer very thought-provoking commentary about the state of the kidney waiting list and ways to address this issue.

We hope that you will take the time to review these articles and familiarize yourselves with the issues and talking points. When you go into the community with your volunteer events, you will usually be asked about these issues, such as compensating families and living donors for their involvement in organ donation.

Please check out the first article that appeared. This will lead you to all of the other discussions.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/in-theory/wp/2015/12/28/compensation-for-organ-donors-a-primer/>

Transplant Support Groups in New York

The service area covered by LiveOnNY is home to support groups from Dutchess County to Long Island. If you know people outside of the TSO geographic area who would be interested in the kinds of transplant activities that TSO does, here is a list of names, websites, and contact numbers for volunteer transplant support in these areas.

TRIO-Manhattan
Tina Sammon
www.trio-manhattan.org
tinamariesammon@gmail.com

Dutchess County
Barb Adams
www.dlodc.com
Bcadams1@earthlink.net

Long Island Trio
Joy Oppedisano
www.litrio.com
joyoppedisano@aol.com

Staten Island
Mike Marten
www.transplantsupport.org/staten.html
Netram59@aol.com

Orange County
Ellen Dunn
www.donatelifegroupoc.org
eaedunn58@yahoo.com

Rockland County
Jeanne Cinalli
www.transplantssavelives.com
jcinalli@optonline.net

Transplant Recipients International Organization -TRIO

TRIO is an invaluable member of the transplant community. For many years, TRIO has used its resources and influence for a wide variety of efforts in the legislative and executive arenas and TRIO's website is an irreplaceable source of information about all topics related to organ donation and transplantation. One of the most important sections of the TRIO website is its e-newsletter. Check out the TRIO webpage and sign up for the newsletter; it will keep you informed. Go to: <http://www.trioweb.org/>

Help Support TSO and Shop Using Amazon Smile



You can now help support TSO when you shop using Amazon Smile. It's simple – just sign in to www.smile.amazon.com and choose Transplant Support Organization Bronx, NY as the charity that you would like to support. The Amazon Smile Foundation will then donate 0.5% of all eligible purchases to TSO!

**New Amazon
Program Enables
Shoppers to Easily
Donate to Their
Favorite Nonprofits**

BITS & PIECES FYI...

First Face Transplant in New York City

Dr. Eduardo Rodriguez came to New York University Langone Medical Center in 2013 and began assembling a team to perform face transplants. There have now been more than 30 face transplants performed across the world. Working with LiveOnNY, Dr. Rodriguez and his team of more than 100 specialists led the effort for the first face transplant in New York City in August, 2015.

The recipient was a firefighter named Patrick Hardison, a volunteer firefighter from Senatobia, Mississippi. Mr. Hardison was burned in a fire in September, 2001. The donor was a 26 year old bike messenger named David Rodebaugh. David donated his face and a number of his solid organs.

For more information on this ground-breaking surgery, please see a TV program that aired on November 15, 2015. <http://abcnews.go.com/Health/face-transplant-recipient-receives-warm-home-mississippi/story?id=35374573>

The Mural at the Zaro Family Bakery

For many years, the Zaro family, owners of the Zaro chain of bakeries, have made a personal commitment to organ donation and registration. As personal friends of Howard and Carol Romanoff, members of TSO, the Zaros lived through the Romanoff family's ordeal leading up to a double lung transplant for Howard Romanoff 5 years ago. The Zaros went over the top this year with their dedication. Working with LiveOnNY, the Zaros contracted with Billy the Artist to paint a mural promoting organ donor registration on the frontage of the Zaro Bakery and Plant on Bruckner Boulevard in the Bronx, NY. Billy the Artist is a world-renowned mural painter, whose works have adorned the sides of buildings around the globe. His works have appeared in New York, Chicago, Miami, Orlando, New Orleans, Austin, Cleveland, Mexico City, Carib Fine Art in Curacao, Foxx Galerie Zurich, Minsheng Art Museum Shanghai, and the Surge Art Fair Shanghai. More information about Billy the Artist can be found at www.billytheartist.com.

TSO was pleased to be represented at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for this mural on December 3, 2015. Pat Tomasulo, Anthony Bonelli, Glenda Daggert, Ike Copperman, Robert Medina, as well as Howard and Carol Romanoff and their family, attended to hear remarks from Billy the Artist, Stu Zaro, and Helen Irving, CEO of LiveOnNY. It's worth a ride to Bruckner Boulevard just off the Third Avenue Bridge to see this outstanding work of art and dedication to organ donor registration.

New York City Council Proceedings

New York City is very fortunate to have a strong advocate for organ donor registration with Council Member Costa Constantinides, D-Queens. The Council Member's spouse is a kidney pancreas recipient and Council Member Constantinides has introduced numerous laws and amendments to further the cause of registering voters as organ donors.

LiveOnNY testified at a recent hearing at the New York City Council and invited Ike Copperman, TSO Co-President, to add his words of support for these legislative efforts.

At the hearing on October 1, 2015, two laws were introduced. The first law would assist jailed individuals with understanding their rights as voters, including the right to be a registered donor. Many of these jailed individuals are awaiting trial and can't afford bail, but are still entitled to register to vote. The second proposal would increase the access to voter registration material in the New York City high schools. Again, this measure is meant to increase the exposure of students to voter and organ donor registration information.

We hope that these proposals will soon make their way into other local governments and New York statewide efforts.

Lauren's Law Receives A Boost

The New York State Legislature, spurred on by the New York Alliance for Donation, (NYAD), passed a major boost to Lauren's Law, the ground-breaking law named in honor of Lauren Shields, transplant recipient and friend of TSO.

The amendment to Lauren's Law closes a loophole that got through when the Law was first passed several years ago. Now a person applying for a driver's license *must* answer the question about becoming an organ donor in order to complete the license application. The applicant may decide to defer registering but must indicate his or her intention at the time of applying for a license.

Governor Cuomo signed the amendment into law late in October, 2015. As a result of closing this loophole, NYAD reported that an additional 40,000 people signed up as donors in November, 2015.

The Science Corner...

Each month, the TSO Newsletter will try to feature a scientific or medical breakthrough that furthers progress in transplantation. For this newsletter, the discussion is on a new kind of cloth, a fabric crafted from a series of woven polymer plastics. This cloth is composed of an acid that can signal the body to regenerate an organ.

Replaceable parts have started with windpipes; a scaffolding of this cloth is formed into the correct shape, sewn into the patient, and the growth process begins when the body's own cells grow into the scaffold. If successful, this cloth could be used to replace any hollow organ, including veins, arteries, and colon, as well as esophagus.

This information came from the magazine *The Future of Everything*, published by the Wall Street Journal, December, 2015.

2015 Holiday Party!

More than 100 people gathered at the Tarrytown Doubletree Hilton on Monday, December 7, 2015, for TSO's annual holiday party. With music from DJ Victor Sanchez, a kidney recipient as well, everyone enjoyed the Doubletree's delicious buffet. In addition, TSO asked several outstanding members of the community to be recognized for their invaluable contributions to public service and patient care.

The Acocella Family received TSO's Community Service Award for their on-going commitment to organ donation and registration, in honor of their son and brother, Joseph Acocella, the former Harrison Town Clerk. Joseph never let his health issues stand in the way of his public service and the Acocella Family continues his legacy.

Dr. David C. Wolf, from Westchester Medical Center, received TSO's Outstanding Professional Award. Dr. Wolf, whose numerous patients and colleagues recognized him, stands out for the care he provides to his patients and for his participation in everything and anything related to organ donation.

Finally, TSO recognized Janet Ocasio, past president of TSO and currently its events coordinator. Janet was recognized for her devotion to TSO and her activities on behalf of the many events that TSO is invited to attend.

Save the Date for next year's Holiday Party in December, 2016.



American Liver Foundation & TSO Re-Birthday Party!

The American Liver Foundation (ALF), partnering with TSO, held its first Westchester-based re-birthday "party" on Saturday, October 24, 2015, at the Tarrytown Doubletree Hilton. Over the years, ALF has held many of these re-birthday events with our friends at Long Island TRIO.

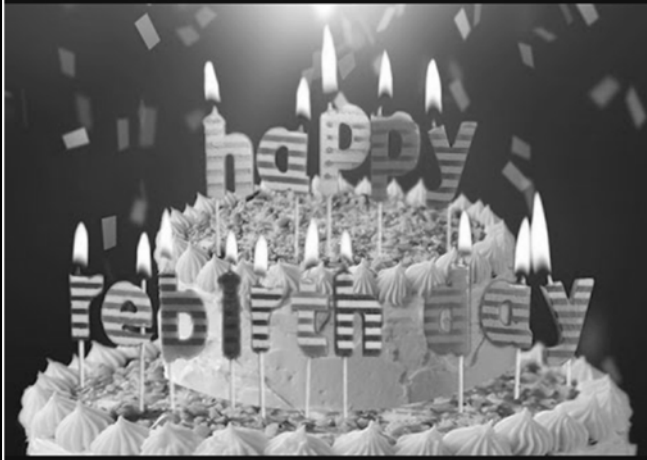
More than 75 recipients and families came together to recognize their successful transplant journeys. There were remarks from Paul Bolter and Lisa Gallipoli from the ALF. Gerard Marinaccio, Co-President of TSO and a liver recipient, also welcomed the attendees. Dr. David Wolf, from Westchester Medical Center, offered his perspective about liver transplantation and his on-going commitment to the health and welfare of liver recipients, both pre and post-transplant. Finally, Gina Polichino, Board Chair for the Greater New York Liver Foundation, addressed the group.

Kyoko Honma, a living liver donor to her son Keizo more than 10 years ago, talked about her journey to transplantation and her continuing commitment to organ donor registration. All the recipients came forward and added their own words about their transplantation journey, followed by a group photo. This inspiring event concluded with a very traditional cake and singing of "Happy Birthday".

TSO is currently planning for re-birthday events for kidney and pancreas recipients and heart and lung recipients in 2016.

Happy Re-birthday to You!

Our best wishes to all our TSO friends and participants who celebrated re-birthdays in October, November and December! Our sincerest wishes for many more happy and healthy years to come!



Join TSO



Joining TSO is an important part of keeping us involved with you and with the entire transplant community. Our meetings, our events, and our legislative efforts come from your support.

Your dues allow TSO to continue doing the important work of education, support, public policy advocacy, and outreach which is so important to us all. Your dues are our main source of financial support. This is your organization, we need your dues to continue the work.

Please use the membership form found on page 11 to join and return the completed form with your check made payable to TSO.

If you have sent in your membership payment, thank you very much!
If you have not sent it in yet, please consider doing it today.





TSO Transplant Support Organization

Participant Application:

New

Renewal

Please fill out this form and mail it with your tax-deductible contribution to:
TSO, 1335 Mace Avenue, Bronx, NY 10469

NAME(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone # - Daytime: _____ Evening: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

PERSONAL INFORMATION (optional)

Birth Date: _____ Sex: _____ Marital Status: _____

Occupation: _____

CANDIDATE / RECIPIENT INFORMATION – Please check appropriate description

Donor _____ Donor Family Member _____ Transplant Recipient _____ Transplant Candidate _____

Family Member _____ Interested Individual _____ Professional _____

Have you already had a transplant? Yes _____ No _____

Type of Transplant(s) _____

Date of Transplant _____

Where did you (will you) have your transplant? _____

PARTICIPANT CATEGORIES & SUGGESTED CONTRIBUTIONS

Regular (Transplant recipient, transplant candidate, family member, donor family)

Individual Participant \$25.00

Family Participant (2 or more members, same address) \$35.00

Professional \$25.00

Please consider a voluntary donation to help support TSO \$ _____

TSO
Transplant Support Organization
1335 Mace Avenue
Bronx, NY 10469

NEXT MEETING: February 17, 2016

Transplant Support Organization's Mission

To help save lives by:

- *Providing education relating to organ donation and transplantation;*
- *Promoting organ and tissue donation as an important social responsibility;*
- *Giving support to transplant candidates, recipients, their families and donor families;*
- *Effectively communicating to government bodies and the general public, the concerns and needs that affect the welfare of those individuals impacted by the transplant process.*