

Editor: Henny van Dijk

www.uthro.org

July, 2023

The Annual Benefits Meeting...

UTHRO Will be 30 soon...

UTHealth Houston presents :

THE MAIN EVENT



Come Enjoy
Giveaways & Have a
blast with the 360
Video Booth !

ANNUAL ENROLLMENT BENEFITS FAIR

Hosted By Employee Benefits

July 12, 2023 10am-3pm
Sarafim Research Building Atrium Area
1825 Pressler Houston, TX 77030

Shuttle
drop off in
front of
IMM Bldg
(Must show UT badge)

Questions?
Contact
(713)500-3935

Come meet with our benefits staff, vendors, and insurance carriers and learn more about the changes for the new plan year beginning September 1st.

















Mark Your Calendar...

September 13
The second Annual "Aging to Perfection" Lecture series honoring Dr Carmel Dyer is scheduled for that day with keynote speaker Mark Lachs, MD


Save the date for UTHealth Houston's

AGING TO PERFECTION LECTURE SERIES

in honor of Carmel Bitondo Dyer, MD

The Secrets of Aging ,
featuring
Mark Lachs, MD, MPH
WELL-COUNSEL MEDICINE

Wednesday, September 13, 2023
5:30 to 7:30 pm



In the fall of 1993 a group of UT Health Science Center employees began talking about forming a Houston Retiree Organization. With the help of Mr. Raul Armendariz – Assistant Vice President of Human Resources UTHSC, a meeting was held at the Kapan's Restaurant on January 21, 1994, and approximately 175 retirees of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHSC-H) met to form the organization know as "UTHRO" to elect officers and to adopt bylaws. A membership list was then developed, and the newsletter *Evergreen* was created.

The group was sanctioned and began its formal existence.

Since its inception, UTHRO has been financially self-sufficient requiring of its members only a nominal payment of dues annually. Its members have included both professional and technical employees. Its first slate of officers was elected and included the following individuals:



Danny D'Anton

President Danny D'Anton
Vice President Dot Cowan
Secretary Nat Firestone
Treasurer Betty Jameson
Newsletter Don Macon
Other key retirees included in the organization were Clara Welch, Paul McFarland, Jack Miller and many others. The work accomplished by these first elected officers and other members has set an example that is being followed in part by the present day

officers of UTHRO.

This group serves retirees with their transition into retirement, providing a venue through which they are able to pursue activities and events of interest while maintaining former ties to The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

UTHealth Houston is the only retiree organization that includes all three groups of employees—Faculty, A&P and Staff. The membership has included five Deans, many chairmen, administrators and colleagues we worked with in some cases for decades and UTHRO and the monthly *Evergreen* keeps those connections vibrant..

Henny van Dijk

In this Issue

Page 1 The 2023 Benefits Meeting; UTHRO's history
Page 2 The secret tunnel; Hurricane Season is here
Page 3 Two UTHRO members in the news
Page 4 ...The June 22 Ocean Star Museum visit

The Tunnel Few Knew About ...

In the April issue I wrote a bit about what I experienced when I took the job in Houston and the challenges of having several spaces to perform the job. One of these assignments for my team was photographing the orthopedic children at the old Shriner's Hospital on McGregor. We would walk from suite 610 in the Hermann Professional Building (our home base), walk across Fannin to the Cullen bldg. the original corner stone of TMC, go to the basement in Cullen and take the tunnel to Shriner's. I don't know why I recalled that trip, but back to the Shriner/Cullen Tunnel— when I was trying to get my 50 year old memory confirmed it soon became apparent that only a few people remain that knew about it and many of you might have never heard about it.

This is from **Erin Hutchins**—she's an Occupational Therapist there, and a history buff who toured the archives a while back.

"So fun to hear about this said mystery. I have heard tales of this tunnel as well. I went digging around by both exploring the current basement as well as informally interviewing some long time employees.

The few employees that have been here for over 30 years remember frequently traveling back and forth in the tunnel between Cullen and the old Shriner's Hospital. In the late 80s the tunnel was demolished to build what is now the Children's hospital. So the mystery is solved. I was curious if I could find any indications of the tunnel in the current Cullen basement. In my exploration, after my interviews with the seasoned employees I found a few tunnels in the basement and could imagine the tunnel that connected the two hospitals. I found the end of the hallway of the basement of Cullen Pavilion where it was said to connect that is now a mechanical room.

I think it is a bit sad that these stories and experiences are not remembered and as time passes employees leave and their experiences and stories exit with them."



the Shriner's swimming pool in 1954—photo by Ace Photographs

I had hit a brick wall but then I got in touch with Allison Scott MD, a pediatric orthopedics surgeon who treated the children at Shriner's in the mid eighties. She told me : "My recollections of the tunnel were that it was pretty scary, like an old horror movie. I also thought that Hermann Hospital stored old iron lungs along the corridor but that could have been my imagination. We used the tunnel to take kids for MRIs or to transfer them to the pediatric floor at Hermann for emergency care. Shriner's also had a swimming pool in the basement as well which was equally as dark and dim. Hope this information helps.

Allison

It's June—Hurricane Season



The 2023 hurricane season runs from June through November, and it is important to be prepared for when storms develop. Having emergency plans in place — whether working remotely from home or in the Texas Medical Center — is critical to ensuring personal safety during severe weather.

Know your evacuation zone. Learn your evacuation zone to determine whether you will need to evacuate when a hurricane threatens. Don't travel hundreds of miles — only go far enough to avoid hurricane hazards such as flooding and tornadoes. Know your evacuation route but plan an alternate route and a place to stay. Visit Harris County's emergency preparedness website [ReadyHarris.org](https://www.readyharris.org), and find the [Hurricane Evacuation ZIP Zone Map](#) to find your zone and routes by ZIP code.

Have a disaster supply kit. Gather needed supplies for seven to 10 days. Don't forget your specific needs like medications, powered devices, and pet supplies, and keep cash on hand.

Make a family emergency communication plan. When inclement weather strikes, there is no guarantee all family members will be home or nearby. Think about where your family will meet and how you will keep in touch, provide updates regularly, and identify safe locations to stay. It's important to plan ahead to accommodate medical or other special needs, including durable medical equipment, oxygen, a wheelchair, a service animal, or medication refills. For more information on disaster preparedness for people with disabilities, visit the [Independent Living Research Utilization website](#).

Sign up for emergency notifications. Many communities have text or email alert systems for emergency notifications. To find out what alerts are available in your area, search the internet with your town, city, or county name and the word "alerts" or visit your [local emergency management agency website](#).

Preparing at home: Banking and credit card networks may be inoperable after a disaster. Keep cash on hand. Copies of insurance policies — home, auto, and health — should be placed in a watertight bag. These documents should travel with you in the event you evacuate. Leave another copy at home in a zip-top bag in your freezer. It is also a great idea to take pictures or video of your house inside and out for insurance use after the storm.

Keep a car charger and rechargeable battery power banks on hand for cell phones and other electronic devices. For additional information on preparedness at home, visit [The American Red Cross: How to Prepare for Emergencies](#).

UTHRO Member Receives Award



Mary Frances Fabrizio will receive this year's Faithful Citizenship Award for her exceptional post-retirement volunteerism with many Catholic organizations including the Catholic Chaplains Corps, Catholic Charity Guild as archivist and historian for its 2022 centennial celebration, and serving as Dame Commander in the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem. The event is Friday, Oct. 13, at the River Oaks Country Club, starting with a 6:30 p.m. reception followed by a 7 p.m. dinner and award ceremony.

"Mary Frances Fabrizio was chosen as our Faithful Citizen of the Year because she has been an extraordinary gift to the Center For Faith & Culture, as well as many other charitable organizations, with her many hours of 'hands on' volunteer work that has benefited all of those she serves."

Meet our Honoree

Mary Frances Fabrizio was born in Youngstown, Ohio, the youngest in a family of five children. Raised in the Catholic faith, she was educated in parochial schools. Fabrizio entered Youngstown State University, transferring to Michigan State University for her senior year to complete a B.A. degree. After graduation, she relocated to San Antonio, Texas, and then Houston. Fabrizio was employed for 32 years at the U.T. Health Science Center at Houston Medical School in various roles.

After her retirement from U.T., she found her niche in volunteerism: She joined the *Catholic Chaplain Corps* assigned to St. Luke's Hospital, has been a member of the *Charity Guild of Catholic Women* since 2003. She served three terms on the Board of Directors for the San José Clinic. Worked to compile a comprehensive history of the Charity Guild and worked in the Blue Bird Circle Pediatric Neurology Clinic at Texas Children's Hospital as a member of the Blue Bird Circle. She is *Dame Commander* in the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem.

Our Latest Member honored



2022/23 has been a great period of recognition for Gary Rosenfeld our latest UTHRO member. In 2022 he and 2 other UTHealth colleagues were honored for their "golden anniversary" - 50 years at UTHSC-H. We started at the

same year 1972 as part of what one friend called the UT Med School pioneers, building the school from practically nothing to what the school is today. One of those advancements of course is teaching, it is after all a school and Gary contributed to that goal in several ways most notably in PBL (Problem Based Learning)—ever since its inception in 1994.

Henny van Dijk

A student leader (new president of the Academic Medical Student Organization - AMSO) had read about a teaching competition at another medical school and approached me last summer (2022) about the idea of doing one at McGovern. I had organized these kinds of events in the past and thought the idea was feasible. The student leaders of the AMSO group knew Dr. Rosenfeld as the past faculty mentor of that group. They knew he was invested in teaching and was, I believe, the founder of the Academy of Master Educators at McGovern Medical School. It was these AMSO student leaders who worked with me and another Office of Education faculty, Samuel Neher, to develop, organize and administer the competition and it was the students who asked to name the Competition award after Gary. I am so happy to see Gary being featured.

Mary Kollmer Horton

The "Gary C. Rosenfeld Award for Excellence in Teaching" was awarded to the winners of the Annual McGovern Medical School Teaching Competition that hosted its inaugural event last December. We wanted to honor Dr. Rosenfeld's contributions to the school over his many years here and we felt it was fitting for the first large event to come out of the newly established Medical Student Research Office, which was founded in a large part by Dr. Rosenfeld.

Jonathan Le, Medical Student



UTHRO

The University of Texas Houston Retiree Organization
1851 Crosspoint, Suite 1.204,
Houston, TX 77054

*To update your address or phone number
please contact us at 281-655-1983*

And Now For Something Completely Different...



Uthro members visited the Ocean Star
Museum in Galveston

UTHRO OFFICERS 2023

President Barbara Kelly
Vice-Pres Efren Pena
Secretary Daun Gray
Treasurer Margaret Zambrano
Web Administrators Henny van Dijk, Pat Grealy & Glenn Schreyer

To protect our officers' personal information on our website, UTHRO has instituted a new general purpose email address: uthro@uth.tmc.edu. This is a "forwarding" email that will send copies to both the UTHRO president and Efren Pena who will then forward the email to the appropriate person. Including the recipient's name in your subject will be very helpful; e.g. Subject: For Barry, BBQ lunch. If UTHRO members already know the phone number or personal email address of an officer then by all means continue using that for your communication needs.

Newsletter Editor Henny van Dijk