Dear Friends,

At the Columbia-Greene Hospital Foundation, we believe that raising money to support Columbia Memorial is the right thing to do for our community, because every gift ultimately saves lives.

Your generosity and caring partnership are visible throughout our Hospital. Thanks to you, the Foundation has helped Columbia Memorial fund facility renovations and purchase the very latest medical technology and equipment, all with the best patient care in mind. From the Intensive Care Unit and Medical Imaging Department, to beautiful new patient care rooms and Hospice, your gifts have made a profound difference.

Our current projects include complete renovation of our fifth and sixth floors, an automated pharmacy delivery system, and significant improvements to our on-site Laboratory. With proceeds from our Hospital Ball in June, we will be making important renovations in our Emergency Department to create an even more efficient, patient-friendly environment.

There are also a variety of smaller, yet important patient care improvements underway, all brought to life with your donations.

If you would like to learn more, I invite you to visit. A tour of the entire facility will show you how far we have come, and the many more areas which could use your support.

Thanks to you, we have made great changes, and with your ongoing partnership, we will continue to transform the quality of healthcare in our community – because it is the right thing to do.

Betsy Gramkow
Executive Director
Columbia-Greene Hospital Foundation

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Dream Fulfilled

We’re very pleased to announce the successful completion of our Fulfilling the Dream Capital Campaign. The Campaign, which exceeded its $10 million goal, is the largest and most successful fundraising effort in this community’s history. You and our growing circle of donors have proven that transforming our Hospital is not just a dream – it is a reality!

We are very grateful for your generous gifts to the campaign, the results of which can be seen in nearly every corner of our Hospital. Thank you for Fulfilling the Dream!
We thank you for your confidence in Columbia Memorial Hospital and your support. As a result of our increasing volumes our hospital continues to progress and grow. Our investments in technology, facilities, and staff have enabled us to improve care to our patients, and our plan is to continue to make the necessary investments to provide the best care possible.

We are currently well into the design phase for expansion and renovation of the psychiatric unit on the 5th floor. Renovations to the entire 6th floor will provide additional private rooms for medical surgical patients. Later this spring you will see work begin to expand our Emergency Department to accommodate our increasing volume of patients and provide a discreet care area for our mental health patients.

By the end of 2009, we were hitting targets of 100% with regard to quality of care indicators for care of heart attack and congestive heart failure as well as prevention of post-operative complications. Our stroke program is also right on target; patients receive CT scans and clot-busting therapy within minutes of arrival in our Emergency Department. We are focused on improving all of our quality of care indicators and placing Columbia Memorial in the top 5% of hospitals in New York State by the end of 2010.

We are proud to be able to offer our community an exceptional level of medical expertise as well as personalized care. Should you have questions about our services, or should you wish to take a tour of our facilities, we would be happy to assist you. Please call my office at 828-8039 and we will be happy to answer your questions or arrange a tour.

Jane Ehrlich
CEO
Sorrel King lost her 18 month old daughter, Josie, to medical errors at Johns Hopkins Hospital. A breakdown in the system was the cause. Her message to Columbia Memorial staff did not fall on deaf ears.

She looks like a cross between actresses Meg Ryan and Robin Wright Penn. But Sorrel King is not acting. Her personal drama was so real that when stages of anger, grief and loss were over, she set a positive course to change the way doctors, nurses, patients and their families communicate so that no harm comes to the patient. She has been a road warrior since 2001, the year her daughter Josie died because of a breakdown in hospital communications— at one of America’s most trusted and prestigious institutions, Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. Running from plane to plane, to train and to automobiles, she has taken her message of creating a culture of patient safety to all corners of the country. She brought it to Columbia Memorial to a standing room only crowd of doctors, nurses, PAs, and other staffers. And when she spoke, they were riveted.

According to the Institute of Medicine, ninety-eight thousand people die from medical errors in the United States each year. “Although there is no road map to patient safety, a few things can be done such as getting to hearts and heads to engage in best practices and new ways of communicating to avoid sentinel events,” said King.

Columbia Memorial has a Patient Safety Program in place designed to accomplish what King advocates. And as a refresher, a re-invigoration and focus on safety, Columbia Memorial’s safety team invited the nationally recognized Mrs. King to speak.

What happened?
“T had concerns about Josie’s condition. They listened, but they didn’t hear me,” said King. According to the Josie King Foundation website and King’s remarks to the Columbia Memorial staff, “In January of 2001 Josie was 18 months old and she was admitted to Johns Hopkins after suffering first and second degree burns from climbing into a hot bath. She healed well and within weeks was scheduled for release. Two days before she was to return home she died of severe dehydration and misused narcotics.”

Despite assurances that Josie would not receive methadone for pain, a nurse, on doctor’s orders, administered it. Communication broke down.

“Josie’s three older siblings had prepared for her welcome home celebration. Josie died from careless human errors. On top of our overwhelming sorrow and intense grief we were consumed by anger. They say anger can do one of two things to you. It can cause you to rot away or it can propel you forward.”

King moved forward to where she is today, a tireless crusader for patient safety. It is all chronicled in a new book, Josie’s Story: A Mother’s Inspiring Crusade to Make Medical Care Safe.

“Seventy-five percent of sentinel events arise because of a breakdown in communication,” she told the staff packed into the Kellner Wing waiting room.

“I’m not an expert on cutting edge medicine,” said King, “but I can sure talk about communication.” King told this writer that even though Johns Hopkins had been chosen by U.S. News and World Report as one of the top ranked hospitals in the nation, a simple failure of communication killed her daughter.

Columbia Memorial has a Patient Safety Operational Team. One of the members, Risk Management Director Christine King (no relation), spoke of staff feedback.

“I received a lot of email from staff. Although we have systems in place, they were re-inspired to vigilantly monitor the way they practice. Hearing from someone who experienced a medical error the most anguishing way was very meaningful to our staff,” said Director King.

“The hospital has hired consultants to work with us on safety issues and we are committed to educate and train all staff levels in safety procedures, values, and to provide them with the tools necessary for safe daily practice.”
Vascular Group lauds Columbia Memorial Hospital and has now done thousands of vascular procedures here.

“We’re doing the same non-surgical vascular procedures at Columbia Memorial that we do in Albany at St. Peter’s and Albany Memorial,” say surgeons Paul Kreienberg and Kathleen Ozsvath, of the Vascular Group of Albany, one of the nation’s pre-eminent vascular organizations.

“There’s no need to go to Albany for procedures related to peripheral vascular disease. The staff at Columbia Memorial Hospital’s vascular unit are highly trained and the suite is state-of-the-art. There is no need to inconvenience patients – making them travel,” they said.

Kreienberg and Ozsvath gave that assessment in a recent presentation to cardiologists, orthopedists, pulmonologists, radiologic technologists, internal medicine and critical care physicians from Columbia Memorial. They spoke about the benefits of non-surgical, angioplasty and stent procedures for patients suffering from vein and artery blockage.

Peripheral vascular diseases are problems related to circulation in muscle tissue where blood flow is insufficient to supply the oxygen needed to exercise muscle. Patients with these problems often develop pain in the legs, calf, thigh, foot, hip or buttocks. Sometimes the pain is so severe that patients cannot continue walking, according to the visual presentation by the vascular surgeons. The physicians also treat coronary or cerebral blockages including non-invasive carotid artery interventions.

**Higher risk patients**

People who are at higher risk for these types of blockages are those who smoke, are hypertensive, are obese, have high cholesterol, diabetes or a family history of peripheral vascular disease or heart disease. One in four Americans has cardiovascular disease. Seven to twelve percent over the age of 55 are at risk for leg amputation because of the severity of their vascular disease. Those with vascular disease are at risk for stroke, heart attack, pain, gangrene or even necrosis (death of tissue).

In a surprising statistic, the physicians showed that those with peripheral artery disease have a 44% greater chance, over five years, of dying than those with breast cancer (15% over five years).

In a presentation the physicians emphasized that now that there are more advanced procedures, there is often no need to do more stressful, invasive surgical procedures to alleviate the debilitating symptoms.

According to Ozsvath, the use of angioplasty (balloons inflated in plaque in arteries) or the placement of stents, which open the plaque, has increased steadily as physician awareness of the clinical benefits of these interventional techniques has grown.

The physicians have done more than 1,000 procedures at Columbia Memorial and are poised to do many more. The vascular surgeons indicate that now “vascular interventions rival open surgery for effectiveness in treating patients with venous and arterial disease.”

This state-of-the-art vascular suite would not be available to these surgeons without the financial support of our community.
Paul Kellner’s unique spirit, intelligence, and unsurpassed generosity has contributed greatly in making Columbia Memorial what it is today. With his wife Clara, they have championed every move we have made to make this hospital the region’s best. We will miss him.”

Jane Ehrlich

This issue of Visions is dedicated to Paul Kellner without whose philanthropy Columbia Memorial could never have grown to its present levels. In fact, Columbia Memorial has always been special to Paul and the Kellner family – we now state that Paul and the Kellner family are “special” to Columbia Memorial.

The diversity of Paul’s background is too rich to be fully recounted here. His wife, Clara, many times told me of Paul, Clara and their young son George’s emigration to this country with only fifty dollars to their name. Not a man to be discouraged, Paul and Clara opened a business manufacturing silk ties which they developed into a $5 million enterprise.

If humility be the measure of greatness of men of accomplishment, Paul has more than met that measure. Upon mention of his many recognitions both in New York State and in his native Hungary, Paul, with his customary bowed head would say: “I’ve been very lucky in my life to do the things I’ve done.” To those of us who believe that luck in business is more created than endowed, the courage, wisdom and determination of Paul become obvious.

My first meeting with Paul became the beginning of a lifelong friendship. Our first conversations were about horses and dogs. He loved them both and we spoke of them often. He told me about his rides through his orchards and how he would pick a couple of apples – one for him and one for his horse. He knew how to enjoy life’s simple pleasures. To know Paul was to instantly know his generosity of spirit, and his willingness to give to others, which permeated all facets of his life.

Paul was also completely dedicated to his family. At the tender age of 82 he gave up riding his favorite horse not because he felt too old to ride but to please his wife, Clara. Clara shared with me more than once how crazy it was for him to be riding “at that age.” Paul, however, always maintained that age was merely a state of mind. Despite his years I never considered Paul elderly. His demeanor was one of a young man determined not only to derive the best from life, but also to contribute to the lives of those around him. I was friends with Paul and Clara for several years before I learned of Paul’s military experience. I was not at all surprised to learn that he had survived near death experiences more than once. He always reminded me of a soldier marching bravely onward. Solid in build and in character, he was both a leader and a survivor.

Paul Kellner was knighted by his native Hungary, and honored by organizations here in the United States. In his own quiet way he educated hundreds of students both here and

Continued on following pages
The newly renovated Paul & Clara Kellner Café.
in Hungary and in so doing opened their eyes to democracy and the American way of life.

I’ve never known a greater patriot. Paul was steadfastly an American, both proud and thankful of what this country had permitted him to do. One was well cautioned not to criticize the United States in Paul’s presence as any such criticism would have resulted not only in rebuke but also a prolonged effort to cure the misguidance of the unwitting speaker.

While his philanthropy was primarily aimed at educating students, especially those from his native Hungary, he also became an ardent supporter of Columbia Memorial Hospital. It was Clara who was on the board, but you don’t stay married for 70 years without mutually supporting each other. While Paul’s passion was education, Clara’s was Columbia Memorial. Together, with their son George and his family, they were and are formidable in their support of our hospital. One of the results of their combined passions was the scholarship program they created for nursing students at Columbia Greene Community College. Many of these scholarship recipients have become proud members of the nursing staff at our hospital.

At institutions of higher learning in the United States and Hungary, the Kellner Scholarship Programs continue, carried on by the Kellner family. Just last week a young woman who was the proud recipient of a Kellner scholarship dropped by my office. This particular student worked in administration for a few years prior to pursuing a nursing degree at Columbia Greene Community College. She stopped by to visit for the express purpose of telling me how proud she is to be a recipient of a Kellner Scholarship. I would have enjoyed telling Paul how thrilled she is and how much it means to her.

Every year, over 34,000 patients are treated in our hospital’s emergency department and over 4,000 patients undergo surgical procedures in our operating rooms. Both of these departments are housed in The Kellner Wing, constructed in 1999 with major support from the Kellners. Every week hundreds of staff members and visitors enjoy the services of our new Paul and Clara Kellner Café, a gift of George and Bicky Kellner.

Paul Kellner was one of a kind. In life he made a difference, improving the world for so many, especially their health and education. Today, he continues to be an inspiration, reminding us of the difference one person can make. We can all learn from Paul Kellner: how to live, how to give, how to make the world a better place.

Paul Kellner, 1911 – 2009, we miss you.

Ave atque vale.
Manoj Subudhi is all business. An expert urologist who has been with Columbia Memorial for two years, he often breaks into an infectious smile that is supported by an engaging demeanor that makes patients feel totally at ease. That’s good because he might have to discuss some of the most delicate topics in medicine today: prostate cancer, bladder cancer, kidney stones, impotence, erectile dysfunction and incontinence.

But talk to them he does. He provides clear information so that he and they can make informed choices on treatment that may include anything from prescribing a new medicine to using the most advanced laser or laparoscopic (minimally invasive) surgery technique.

“Having a single hospital and office to work at, a dedicated hospital and office staff, state-of-the-art medical imaging, oncology and pathology support all nearby – and positive support from the hospital’s administration – make my practice here a joy,” said Subudhi.

“It’s a family atmosphere that engenders great medicine. Through donations and our hard work, the hospital is able to keep up with the fast changes in healthcare delivery such as having electronic medical records and x-ray access right in the physician offices. That equals better care.”

Nobody understands that better than Dr. Subudhi himself, a major contributor to the Columbia-Greene Hospital Foundation. What goes around comes around is his philosophy.

Attention to detail is why Dr. Subudhi is highly regarded by patients and co-workers. Formerly in private practice in urology on Long Island, Subudhi joined Dr. Daniel Melamed of Columbia Urology, located in the Medical Office Building at the hospital. Dr. Karuvath Enu, a noted local urologist, joined the group about one year ago. Dr. Subudhi said that he is happy to have the support of his associates and is especially appreciative of Dr. Enu’s experience in complementing areas of expertise. For example, Dr. Subudhi often calls on Dr. Enu, who is an expert in pelvic organ prolapse (dropped uterus or bladder), to provide surgical support. Together they collaborate on issues of female incontinence, pediatric urology and other complicated cases.

Dr. Subudhi prefers to perform minimal incision surgery to facilitate rapid healing and recovery without prolonging surgery time. He also performs minimally invasive prostate surgery. For men with urinary problems due to an enlarged prostate, he prefers a laser procedure, usually an ambulatory surgery that has less bleeding and faster recovery times.

Dr. Subudhi is a Board Certified Diplomate of the American Board of Urology, and is a member of the American Urological Association and the American Medical Association. He was a visiting clinician receiving specialized training at the University of Southern California in urological cancer. He also received special urology surgical training at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

Previous to entering private practice, he was a clinical instructor and resident in the Departments of Surgery and Urology at SUNY Health Sciences Center in Syracuse, NY. Dr. Subudhi supports Columbia Memorial in so many ways. He supports with his expertise, his courteous manner, and his consummate professionalism. But he is more than a talented practitioner. He is a generous donor, too – a medical staff champion. 
The 6th Annual Snow Ball was held Friday, February 5, 2010 at Anthony’s Banquet Hall in Leeds, New York. This year’s Snow Ball honored long-time Hospital and Kaaterskill Care supporter, Winnie Thorn. The event was hosted by First Niagara.

Over $65,000 was raised to benefit Kaaterskill Care Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Catskill, and proceeds will be used for furnishings and amenities for residents and patients.

Special thanks to Regina M. Doebler, RN, Director of Nursing, who chaired the Snow Ball Committee for the sixth time, and her committee members, Margaret Apa, Geri Blair, Susan Meyers, Connie Pazin, Howard Scott, and Todd Zbytniewski for the most successful Snow Ball to date!

“In Honor of Winnie Thorn

Every bit of money raised during this fun winter event goes to the enhancement of furnishings and resident amenities. These funds are for the details, the small things that make such a great impact on the lives of our patients and long term residents. We are grateful for the support.”

Todd Zbytniewski
Vice President
Kaaterskill Care

Auxiliary donation

Rosemary Maichin, President of the Columbia Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, presents a check for $25,000 to Betsy Gramkow, Executive Director of the Columbia-Greene Hospital Foundation.
Thank you

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Saturday, June 5, 2010

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