101st Year Celebration of Aurora of CNY

Musical Feast for the Eyes & Ears

Join Us
Thursday, May 24, 2018
at Skaneateles Country Club

2018 Honorary Chairs:
Dr. L. Ryan and Mona Smart

Presenting Sponsor: Dr. Lawrence Stewart

Crystal Sponsors:

Sam & Carol Nappi
Meet Our 2018 Honorary Chairs

For Dr. L. Ryan Smart and his wife Mona, supporting AURORA is all in the family. At the Musical Feast, they will share their story of how a “chance meeting” at an AURORA event turned out to be just what was needed to assist their family in a time of need.

As our Honorary Chairs, the Smarts want to promote AURORA’s mission and get the word out. As Mona explains, “When you hear the word ‘disabled,’ you usually think about some physical limitation, but vision and hearing loss can be somewhat invisible and they don’t get the attention they need… It’s an underserved group that the community should know about and get involved with.”

We are grateful to the Smarts for taking time out of their busy lives: Ryan is a Board-certified orthopedic surgeon who specializes in sports medicine and Mona owns her own business, the Rodan + Fields Skin Care Company. They work together to keep up with their very active children, Teddy who is 10, and twins, Layla and Genevieve, who are now 8. We thank them all for being living examples of our mission in action!

Please join us for the 16th Annual Musical Feast for the Eyes & Ears on Thursday, May 24th at the Skaneateles Country Club.

Individual tickets are $150 which includes hors d’oeuvres, delicious dinner, and desserts. Entertainment will be provided by Maria DeSantis and the Maria DeSantis Band. We will feature a new “Fund the Mission” live auction and large silent auction!

To register, please fill out the form below and return to AURORA of Central NY, 518 James Street, Syracuse, NY 13203. Please R.S.V.P. by May 4th.

☐ I am unable to attend. Please accept the enclosed $_______ donation.
☐ I would like to purchase #_______ tickets at $150 each (please send names).

Name ____________________________________________________________
Address __________________________________________________________________
City/State/Zip __________________________________________________________

Payment Information

☐ Please charge my ☐ Check Enclosed (Make checks payable to “AURORA of CNY”)
Card # _______________________________ Exp. ___/____ CVV Code_______

Signature ____________________________ Phone (___) _________________
Email __________________________________________________________________

For information about sponsorship opportunities: please call AURORA at 315-422-7263
SPOTLIGHT ON GIVING

United We All Win!

Investing in our community through the United Way is one way that WE ALL WIN. AURORA and those we serve are greatly benefited by the efforts of United Ways of CNY, Oswego and Cayuga Counties. Last year, over 900 people with vision and hearing loss were served by programs funded through the United Way. Their individual stories are ones of triumph and success in reaching their goals for gainful employment, preparation for college, independent living and self-sufficiency. People learn skills, receive support and obtain equipment and technology that is unique to their needs in managing a vision or hearing loss. We could not continue these efforts without the vital support of United Way.

As a partner agency, we are accountable for the stewardship of the dollars we receive. When you invest in United Way, you can be assured that you are supporting an agency that is fiscally sound and responsive to community needs. We are proud of our participation in United Way and ask you to remember that when you support them, you are supporting those we serve.

Grant Award Addresses Diversity of Need

AURORA is pleased to announce a recent award of $30,000 from the J. Henry & Martha E. Deboer, J. Daniel & Diane Pluff, and R. Shoudy Memorial Funds of the Central New York Community Foundation. This grant will enable us to provide culturally sensitive and accessible services in our community for our neighbors and citizens who are Deaf, blind, visually impaired and hard of hearing. Access to medical care, proper communication support and community and individual advocacy are the cornerstones of a collaborative and connective program known as Health Home Care Coordination. These funds will enhance our abilities in all of these areas.

The support and partnership that we enjoy with the Central New York Community Foundation are very valuable to us. We look forward to meeting the objectives of this grant to enrich our community and contribute to lasting improvements in the lives of those we serve.
SPOTLIGHT ON HEALTH

Can Stress Affect Your Vision?

The answer is Yes! Having hypertension or HBP (high blood pressure), over time, can put you at a higher risk of developing an eye disease known as Retinal Vein Occlusion (RVO), a disease that affects 4 out of 1000 people. High blood pressure not only affects your heart, it also disrupts the vessels that supply blood to the eyes, forming clots and damaging them. RVO is essentially a heart attack or stroke selectively affecting the retina, the most important and sensitive part of our eyes. The condition can result in blurring of vision and without treatment can progress to total loss of vision by repeated bleeding into the eye.

The past decade has seen many advancements in management of RVO, including injections, lasers and surgery, which allow prevention of blindness from this disease in a vast majority of these patients. However, primary prevention by getting your blood pressure regularly checked and controlled by adequate measures is the most desirable action for preventing the problem of RVO. That’s why AURORA is offering free blood pressure screening at all of our public vision/hearing screenings and informational sessions, beginning in 2018.

In addition to regular screenings, we are encouraged to reduce the level and impact of stress by making positive lifestyle changes, that include healthy eating and rigorous exercising, both of which can preserve your eyes and lead to overall health and wellbeing.


Do You Shop on Amazon?? Help AURORA of CNY through Amazon Smile

Start at smile.amazon.com/ch/15-0543651 and make sure AURORA of CNY is selected as your charity of choice!

When you shop at Amazon Smile, Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase to AURORA of CNY.

Every little bit counts!
Does Hearing Loss Affect Balance?

You may be surprised to learn that hearing loss itself does not cause balance problems but problems with the inner ear may. An underlying ear condition can cause the symptoms of vertigo and dizziness along with other symptoms such as nausea, fluctuating heart rate and blood pressure, depression, and anxiety.

To determine the reason for a balance disorder, you should be referred to an ENT specialist who will determine the condition of the inner ear and rule out other possibilities, like drug interactions that can affect balance.

No matter what the cause, we ALL can benefit from simple strength and balance exercises that will help to reduce the risk of falls and lead to increased flexibility and balance.

Here’s one very simple exercise that you can do anytime and anywhere.

Tandem Walking: Place one foot directly in front of the other, touching heel to toe, and hold. Repeat with other foot in front. Progress to taking a step or two by placing your heel to your toe with each step. Eventually try walking across the room.

Source: www.hearingdirect.com/blog/does-hearing-loss-affect-balance.html

WILLS & ESTATES WORKSHOP

Presented by Elaine Amory, Legal Services of CNY

What is a Will? Where do I get one? What happens to my car, house and bank account when I die?

Find out more information:

When: Friday April 13, 2018, 1-3pm

Where: Rosamond Gifford Room (basement) 518 James St., Syracuse, NY 13203

Interpreters will be provided. Consumers and guests are welcome!

**Space is limited, so please RSVP by Wednesday April 11**

Starr Guckert at sguckert@auroraofcny.org, 315-422-7263, or TTY 315-422-9746.
SPOTLIGHT ON THE BOARD

Jeanne Mathews-Fox, Board Chair

Meet Jeanne Mathews-Fox, AURORA’s new Board President. Jeanne is currently the Senior Vice President at Geddes Federal Savings and Loan Association and has been actively involved in supporting AURORA since 2004, when she became a member of the Board of Directors. She has participated over the years as a Co-Chair of our Fund Development Committee and has served on the Golf and Executive Committees. We are thrilled that Jeanne is now at the helm of our Board of Directors, providing leadership and vision. Here are her thoughts on the future of AURORA:

“The vision for the future of AURORA’s services is to continue to follow not only our mission but also AURORA’s “Values Statement”. Where AURORA has the responsibility to act as a leader and advocate in the field of services to people with vision and hearing loss. To utilize our partnership with Liberty Resources to enhance AURORA’s current programs and services. And to continue to be a “community resource” for all generations who are blind, visually impaired, Deaf, hard-of-hearing, late-deafened, and Deaf-blind to achieve their full potential and to be able to participate fully in society.”

For a more in-depth interview, visit: www.auroraofcny.org/about-aurora/board-of-directors/

Michael E. O’Connor, Esq., Former Board Chair

Mike O’Connor estimates that he has been involved with AURORA of CNY since 1980, making him one of our longest standing supporters. As out-going President of the Board for his fourth such term, we want to take this opportunity to salute his commitment and dedication to our organization. Over the years, Mike has lent his leadership skills and insight to navigate not one but two mergers of our agency. He remains a valuable contributor and source of wisdom as we forge ahead toward a bright and sure future. Thanks, Mike for all that you have done to further our mission!

Scott Gucciardi, Honorary Board

Scott Gucciardi has been an integral member of our Board of Directors since 2002. He has served as First Vice-Chair and was Co-Chair of our Fundraising and Development Committee for many years. Scott is a committed and strong advocate for the people we serve and has shared his keen business acumen to benefit our organization. We are grateful for his pres-
ence on our Honorary Board so that we can continue to call on him when we need direction, support or a fresh perspective.

**Robert Haege, Honorary Board**

Bob Haege has been a steadfast and true friend of AURORA since he joined the Board of Directors of The Lighthouse back in 1970. For the past 48 years he has done it all! He has served as President and had multiple stints as Treasurer and Secretary. He has also been a steadfast member of our Musical Feast and fundraising committees, and as the Chairman of our Investment Committee. We appreciate Bob’s humble presence and sound decision making. He has also recruited many others who have served on the Board or have become loyal contributors because of his stellar example and personal invitation. We can’t thank Bob enough for his continued presence and assistance.

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**Thank you to the following members and donors** who are committed to the continuation of AURORA’s vital services for those with vision and/or hearing loss. Names listed are of those who have contributed from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017. We apologize for any name that may have been omitted from our list. Please notify us of any changes or corrections. *Thank you!!*

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**$5,000 & Over:**

Central New York Community Foundation, Inc.
Mrs. Vera B. Lange
Fred & Berthe P. Harder Foundation
Ms. Louise B. Stickley (Trust U/W of Louise B. Stickley)

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**$4,999-$1,000:**

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**$125 - $249:**

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Mrs. Arlene Pilon
We Appreciate Our Donors and No Amount Is Too Small!

Please use the enclosed envelope to send in your gift. In this newsletter we highlight the wonderful individuals and groups who have supported us throughout the year. We simply can’t thank you enough!
Join Our Mission — Without the generous support of our donors, we would not have been able to serve this community for more than 100 years. Donors like you provide much needed funds for programs such as our support groups, social work services, and skills training.

We appreciate donations in any amount and thank you for your assistance.

Please complete & mail this form to:
AURORA of CNY, 518 James St., Ste. 100, Syracuse, NY 13203-2282

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AURORA of Central New York 2018 Donation Form

Name ________________________________________________________

Address ______________________________________________________

City ___________________________ State ________ Zip __________

Phone ___________________________ Email _________________________

I would like to make a contribution to AURORA of Central New York at the following level:

☐ $25  ☐ $50  ☐ $100  ☐ $250  ☐ $500*  ☐ Other $_________

☐ Please send me information about AURORA’S Planned Giving Program

I am paying by: ☐ Check (Please make checks payable to AURORA of CNY, Inc.)

☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express

My Account # ________________________________ Expiration Date: _______/_______

V-Code (three-digit number on back of card) ____________

Name on Account (if different from above) ________________________________

Billing Address (if different from above) _____________________________________

I am aware and allow AURORA of Central New York to charge my card for the above purposes.

Signature: ________________________________ Date: __________________________

* Gifts may be acknowledged in our newsletter; if you wish to remain anonymous please check here ☐.

In return for your gift you received no material goods or tangible services for supporting AURORA of Central New York. Your donation to AURORA is tax-deductible.
AURORA of Central New York, Inc.
518 James St., Suite 100; Syracuse, NY 13203
Serving Individuals who are Blind, Visually Impaired, Deaf & Hard of Hearing for 100 Years.

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Website: www.auroraofcny.org

Updates to Mailing List?
We need your help to keep our mailing list up to date. Please let us know if you have any changes to your contact information or would like to be removed from the mailing list. We also welcome new names; if you know of anyone who would like to receive our newsletter, call 315-422-7263 or e-mail us at auroracny@auroraofcny.org.