



Senator Donna M. Nesselbush Named 2017 Legacy Award Recipient

At this year's Annual Meeting, Executive Director Julie Richard announced that Senator Donna Nesselbush will be the 2017 Steere House Legacy Award and Autumn's Promise honoree. In making the announcement, Julie cited Donna's professional career, volunteer efforts and her role as a Steere House resident family member since 2005 as stellar credentials for a Steere House Legacy Award recipient.

Professionally, Donna M. Nesselbush is a lawyer, judge and politician from Pawtucket. A Democrat, she serves in the Rhode Island Senate, representing the 15th district since January, 2011. A native of Buffalo, NY, she graduated from Brown University with a B.S. in American Civilization. She was also awarded the University's Sarah Doyle Prize "for having made a significant contribution to women on campus and in the community." It was fitting then that her first job was as the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Her work there placed her in an advocacy role for victims of domestic violence, spearheading a number of initiatives in the court house and the State House.

Those experiences fueled her desire to study law, as Donna felt she needed to become an attorney to better serve these victims. She received her J.D. from Suffolk University Law School in Boston where she wrote for *The Law Review*, graduated cum laude and was honored with the Leo J. Wyman Award for having "contributed most to advancing the civic and professional responsibilities of a lawyer."

Donna continued her work for the Coalition Against Domestic Violence. While there, Donna

was asked by battered women's and homeless shelters in the area if she could help disabled residents who were living in the shelters partly because they had been denied Social Security disability benefits. Donna immersed herself in Social Security Disability law and in 1999, she and law school friend Joseph P. Marasco founded Marasco & Nesselbush LLP, a law firm dedicated to the injured and disabled.



Donna is Chair of the RI Bar Association's Social Security Disability Committee and member of the American and RI Associations for Justice. She is also the Chief Judge of the Pawtucket Municipal Court and Vice President of the Municipal Court Judges' Association. For her community efforts, Donna has been recognized by organizations, most notably with Crossroads Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless, the Rhode Island Women's Bar Association and the Rhode Island Psychiatric Society.

Growing up in Buffalo, NY, Donna comes from humble means. Talking about her various professional and volunteer efforts recently, she reflected, "I have worked hard and been very fortunate in my life, and I have always believed that 'those to whom much is given, much is expected'."

Join us as we bestow Donna with this award and toast the entire Steere House Community at Autumn's Promise Dinner & Auction, September 22.

To learn about the Steere House Legacy Award, visit our website:

http://www.steerehouse.org/events_awards

A Letter from the Executive Director



Julie H. Richard
NHA, MA

In 2011 Steere House set out to establish two awards which would recognize those in our Community who “go beyond the call” and who we’d like to recognize for their fine efforts. This year these awards, the Steere House Legacy Award and Outstanding Steere House Employee Award, take on special meaning. For the first time, two employees were selected as “outstanding” by their peers. Both Akua Baidoo and Irene Peck appear in our newly released 2016 Annual Report, available online at steerehouse.org. There you can read their profiles, learning what makes what they do extra special to our residents, families and their fellow employees.

In another first, Steere House is recognizing a government official with the 2017 Legacy Award. You’ll recall that this award honors an individual or corporation for their achievements and contributions through public and community service, especially in the areas of health, social services and the elderly, as well as to inspire volunteering in Rhode Island.

The Award winner demonstrates selfless and extraordinary contributions for the betterment of a local community or organization. The Award winner is selected from one of three categories: Greatest Public Service by an Elected or Appointed Official being one of them. This year we felt it so fitting to recognize the work and effort of Senator Donna Nesselbush. Beyond her professional capacity, Donna is a long-time friend and family member of Steere House as her mother, Marie, has been a resident here since 2005. We’ve been fortunate to get to know her well.

The importance of these awards is not lost on me as I find them a wonderful way to say “thank you for all you do” to those we recognize. I also appreciate that they serve as the cornerstone of one of my favorite nights, our Autumn’s Promise Dinner & Auction. Every year, I write about my excitement for this special evening and I think you’d agree that by honoring these three individuals in our midst, the event is worthy of some serious celebration.

Kameny Lectureship Set for October 24th



The 2017 Pearl Kameny Lectureship in Geriatric Medicine will be held on Tuesday, October 24th. Now in its 17th year, the Lectureship is a gift from Joan Gelch given in memory of her mother and Steere House resident Pearl Kameny. The Lectureship is held annually for medical staff and clinicians at Lifespan hospitals; Steere House staff; students, residents and fellows of Brown University School of Medicine; and CareLink members. The Lecture will be held at 8:00 a.m., George Auditorium, Rhode Island Hospital.

Featured speaker, Dr. Christopher Callahan is the Cornelius and Yvonne Pettinga Professor of Medicine at the University of Indiana (IU), as well as the founding Director of the IU Center for Aging Research and a Research Scientist with the Regenstrief Institute. Dr. Callahan has played an integral role in several programs to improve care quality and delivery across health professions and health systems. His

major research interest is improving the care of older adults with late life depression, dementia and related conditions. His studies seek ways to enable primary care physicians to deliver excellent care to older adults. He is the author of more than 90 peer-reviewed publications and recipient of the 2016 American Geriatrics Society’s (AGS) prestigious Edward Henderson Award, 2012 National Award for Career Achievement and Contribution to Clinical and Translational Science, among other noteworthy accolades.

In practice for more than 20 years, Dr. Callahan received his medical degree from St. Louis University School of Medicine in 1985, and completed an Internal Medicine residency at Baylor College of Medicine and a fellowship in Health Services Research at Indiana University School of Medicine.

He is one of 25 doctors at the IU Health Academic Health Center and one of 15 at Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center who specialize in Geriatrics.



Employee Development Team (EDT) Kicks Off 2017 Comfort Companions Campaign

Every year the Steere House Employee Development Team (EDT) selects a resident cause to support with their fundraising efforts. This year the Team has introduced a campaign called Comfort Companions. What is a comfort companion, you may ask? Many long-term care facilities are turning to doll or nurture therapy as a way to help residents in a memory care unit or who have dementia.

Researchers have found that using a realistic baby doll, heated teddy bear or furry puppy can be an effective way for a person with Alzheimer's or any kind of dementia to decrease stress and agitation. A caregiver can use

doll therapy as a way to put responsibility, caring and structure back into a patient's life.

Doll therapy can also help a person who is not verbalizing to initiate speech again. It is part of the basic thought process to speak, hum or sing to a baby in their arms. The therapy doll can have its clothes washed, folded, put away and then dressed for the next day. Even a teddy bear brings soothing comfort as often it can be heated to bring warmth to the resident and can be a cause of an activity.

Doll therapy is not for everyone but patiently introduced, it can help caregivers and residents communicate and relieve the frustration that often comes with Alzheimer's and dementia.

Benefits of Doll Therapy for Dementia Patients

- Calm someone who is upset;
- Provide endless hours of hugs and smiles;
- Lull a person to sleep;
- Create a distraction from a dangerous, harmful or upsetting event;
- Serve as an attention-getter;
- Provide a tool for social interaction;
- Regenerate warm, nurturing feelings of once again caring for a young child;
- Make it possible for someone, totally dependent upon others, to care for someone else.



The EDT supports those programs or initiatives that help to improve the quality of residents' daily life by holding fundraising events throughout the year. To support this initiative, the Team hopes to raise \$3,000, enough to purchase approximately 25 dolls and stuffed animals. Once the items are purchased, the Team, with the help of caregivers, introduce these Comfort Companions to select residents with memory loss and dementia throughout Steere House.

Interested in helping? You can make a designated gift at the Reception Desk and www.steerehouse.org, as well as buy tickets for monthly raffles, bake sale items, lottery tickets and more. Every little bit helps!

Steere House

NURSING & REHABILITATION CENTER

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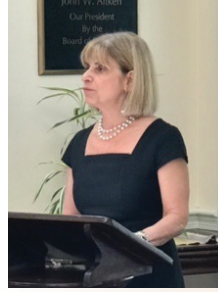
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Steere House Holds Annual Meeting

Linda M. Cannistra
*President of the
Board of Directors*

Linda M. Cannistra, President of the Board of Directors presided over the Annual Meeting held on Monday, June 26th. Board Treasurer Norma J. Owens also presented the Treasurer's Report, featured in the newly released 2016 Annual Report. Concluding the meeting, Executive Director Julie H. Richard announced Senator Donna M. Nesselbush as the recipient of the 2017 Steere House Legacy Award. Senator Nesselbush will be recognized at September's Autumn's Promise Event. During a reception following the Meeting, residents displayed their recently completed artwork.



Calendar of EVENTS

• **SEPTEMBER 16 • 1:30 PM**
Saturday

**7TH ANNUAL ROB CARNEVALE
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

• **SEPTEMBER 22 • 6:30 PM**
Friday

**AUTUMN'S PROMISE
DINNER & AUCTION**

• **OCTOBER 24 • 8:00 AM**
Tuesday

KAMENY LECTURESHIP

Steere House

NURSING & REHABILITATION CENTER

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JOIN US

September 22, 2017
Friday, 6:30^{PM}

Steere House
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AUTUMN'S PROMISE

dinner & auction

Tickets available online at
www.steerehouse.org