**WE’RE ON THE MOVE**

The year we’ve been waiting for is finally here. Our new buildings will be finished in December. The first “tourists” to visit the construction site in 2009 were members of the care team on O-7 led by Nursing Director Mercy Devasconcellos. After the tour, Mercy wrote to tour leader Arla Escontrias to share her thoughts.

Hi Arla — That was a great tour. You just don’t know how excited the group was before and after. It is a good feeling to walk through the building where you know you will soon be working. We still can’t believe it. Laguna Honda is moving into a building that will change how we have been perceived by most people who do not work here. It reminds me of people saying, “How can you work in that old place?”

I have gotten used to it and I keep my chin up and proudly respond that Laguna Honda is one of the best places anyone would like to stay to age gracefully and to rehabilitate successfully and comfortably. Then I describe the programs we offer and all we do. Now I can talk about the new Laguna Honda that we and our residents are moving into. Also, it has been difficult thinking about the closure of O-7. But you know what? It’s okay because closing O-7 means moving on and transitioning to the new building. Thank you. — Mercy.

**CHANGES IN THE MEDICINE DEPARTMENT**

Medical Director Dr. Paul Isaakson went out on extended medical leave this month. Assistant Medical Director Dr. Tim Skovrinski will be departing Laguna in late February to become the medical director at one of the Department of Public Health clinics. Department of Medicine Chief of Staff Dr. Hosea Thomas will be filling in as interim medical director while the Department of Public Health conducts a nation-wide search for a new Laguna Honda medical director.

In a memo to all staff, Executive Administrator John Kanaley said that downsizing and budget cuts made it necessary to reduce the administrative services in the Department of Medicine in favor of retaining direct-care providers.

Kanaley said, “I will be asking members of the medical staff to assume responsibility for various aspects of medical operations and performance improvement processes, and to collaborate with their counterparts in other hospital departments on transition-related projects. This is more in line with the shared governance model I am seeking for the entire hospital as we transition into the new buildings. This model builds on improved communications, inclusivity and shared accountability.”

**ON-LINE CENSUS DEBUTS**

The online census is now a reality house-wide, IS Director Pat Skala and nursing chief Mivic Hirose announced this month.

The project began 15 months ago, with the goal of installing at least two computers on each unit as well as training nursing staff to make real-time changes in the Invision system for discharges and transfers. Formerly, discharges and transfers were not entered into the computer system until the next available business day. The change to online management saves four hours of manual record consolidation daily.

LVN and nursing infomatics specialist Larry Reyes trained over 400 nursing staff to use the new system. The project was a collaborative effort of the Information Systems Steering Committee, the Information Systems Dept, Admissions and Eligibility, Medicine, and Nursing. The SFGH information systems team also contributed by modifying the SFGH online census system to work for Laguna Honda.

**EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

The members of the G-4 nursing team were honored as January employees of the month for their extraordinary care of a resident who had significant complications following a kidney transplant.

Congratulations to the whole group.

The G-4 Nursing Team from left to right are (front row) Bo Yao and Sam Hamman; (middle row) Sherri Chen, Chiu-Chen Chen, Anita Mopas, Lan Lee, Jenny Xu; (back row) Kim Lit and Andrew Lam. Not pictured: Carol Kuo, Young Kim, Sanda Win Thaw, Wai Ng, Lyna Zhang, Gloria Arcia.

The O-7 care team dressed in their touring gear in front of the new building (from left to right): Mercy Devasconcellos, Guozhen Li, Juliet DelosSantos, Arla Escontrias, Teresita Gamit, Nida Torrijos, Shanti Dutt, Shirley Uy, Alfredo Tanglao, and Steven South. Photo by Jamie Spiegel.

**LAGUNA HONDA: “AGING GRACEFULLY, REHABILITATING SUCCESSFULLY.”**

— MERCY DEVASCONCELLOS
**COMING EVENTS**

**Year of the Ox** Chinese New Year falls on January 26th, and Laguna Honda will celebrate the Year of the Ox with events throughout February. For information, check with the A.T. Dept. The Ox is said to be dependable, patient, methodical, hardworking, calm, and ambitious. Perfect for our year of transition.

**Black History Month** Look for special events to mark Black History Month at Laguna Honda. On February 7, the Alafia Dance Ensemble will perform in Moran Hall at 10:30 am, and on February 18, you can hear the SoVoSo Acapella Quartet in Moran at 2:00 pm. Check the activity boards for other special events.

**Employee Service Recognition Dinner** The annual employee awards banquet will be held on February 27th at the Sheraton Gateway in Burlingame. Dinner is complimentary for employees who have reached their 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 year anniversaries. Tickets are $55 for non-honorees, and are available from members of the employee activity committee.

**TRANSITIONS**

**Amy Narciso and Espie Sorongon Move to GGRRC**

Clinical Nurse Specialist Amy Narciso (left) and Nursing Supervisor Espie Sorongon (below) are set to begin new careers as nurse consultants for the Golden Gate Regional Center (GGRC).

Amy’s and Espie’s experience at Laguna Honda will make them “strong partners with us” as we continue to work with GGRC, said Chief Nursing Officer Mivic Hirose. “We’re looking forward to working with them in their new roles.”

Laguna Honda works closely with GGRC on the transition of residents with developmental disabilities into GGRC-affiliated care homes.

Amy has worked at Laguna Honda for 16 years and Espie for 17 years. They began as staff nurses, returned to school for masters degrees, and then moved into nursing leadership positions. Best of luck Amy and Espie!

**Program Averts Nursing Layoffs**

A training program to avert layoffs among registered nurses made the difference for twenty Laguna Honda RN’s who successfully passed their oral boards to start new jobs at SFGH and jail health.

The program prepared the nurses for job interviews, helped them to present themselves effectively in an acute care setting, and to brush up on test-taking skills. It was a collaborative effort of Nursing Education, Human Resources and Jewish Vocational Services, a long-time partner of Laguna Honda.

**HALLWAY CHATTER**

**And The Logo Winner Is ...** As you can see from the banner on the front page, the winner of the Great Laguna Honda Logo Contest is “The Florences.” Over 500 residents, employees, and family members cast ballots. The results were: The Florences: 273, The Lotus: 170, The Medallion: 84, total votes: 527.

In an expression of continuity with our history, the logo depicts five figures modeled on the statue of Florence Nightingale at the west entrance. The figures join hands to symbolize our community of care and raise their arms to greet the future.

**Front Stairs Out of Service** The stairs from Laguna Honda Blvd. up the hill to Hospital Road will be out of service for one month beginning on Tuesday, January 20. Please use the new Tree Allée near the corner of Woodside and Dewey. The Allée will be open for pedestrians on the same Tuesday. The stairs from Hospital Road to the main entrance will continue to be in service.

**Volunteers On the Web** Laguna Honda Volunteers, Inc., the charitable organization that provides so much comfort and support for our residents, has a new presence on the world wide web. If you haven’t already visited the Volunteers’ great new website, please log on and check it out: lagunahon-davolunteers.org.

**Correction** In our last issue we neglected to include activity therapist Wandia Hoke in our list of F-5 staff. Sorry, Wandia. And thanks to the team members who pointed out the error.
DAVIS LAWSUIT CONCLUDES

Laguna Honda came another step closer to ending a decade of legal battles on January 30 when a U.S. District Court judge dismissed the Davis lawsuit, ruling that the city has complied with the settlement agreement in the case.

The dismissal marks a major milestone on Laguna Honda’s transition to community-oriented programming.

Credit for successfully meeting the terms of the settlement agreement belongs to Social Services as well as Nursing, Medicine, Activities, and Rehabilitation, said Deputy City Attorney Adrianne Tong, who managed compliance for the hospital.

“Everyone who worked hard to improve our discharge capabilities and promote Laguna Honda as a partner with the city’s other long term care service providers deserves congratulations,” she said.

The lawsuit, which was filed in 2000 by Protection and Advocacy, Inc. (now Disability Rights California), the Independent Living Resource Center, and other agencies, established the Targeted Case Management program. TCM assesses and implements the discharge plans of Laguna Honda residents as part of the city’s goal of community integration for the DPH service population of seniors and adults with disabilities.

Laguna Honda is still operating under settlement agreements stemming from a second lawsuit, the Chambers case, and a U.S. Department of Justice investigation.

Chambers, a companion suit to Davis, was settled in 2008 when the city created the Diversion and Community Integration Program (DCIP) to provide 500 units of accessible, subsidized housing over five years for discharged Laguna Honda residents or people who are eligible for residence at Laguna Honda but could be served in community settings.

The program is an interdepartmental initiative of the Department of Public Health and the Department of Aging and Adult Services.

The DOJ settlement, also reached in 2008, follows a ten-year investigation focusing on resident safety and quality of life. In an initial post-settlement visit late last year, a DOJ monitoring team gave Laguna Honda high marks for making progress on implementing the settlement.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Sandra Sprague, February employee of the month. Sandra was nominated by her colleagues in the Rehabilitation Department where she is a physical therapist, program leader, educator, and mentor. Her outstanding care has supported dozens of residents to regain functionality and successfully return to community living.

I WAS THINKING ABOUT HOW A LOT OF THE PEOPLE AT LAGUNA HONDA DON’T HAVE FAMILIES, AND I WAS THINKING THAT YOU ALL COULD GET TOGETHER AND BE A FAMILY.

—HENRY, AGE 5, VISITOR

WE’RE ON THE MOVE

DID YOU KNOW...

In the new buildings, residents will live in households of 15 people each.
Every household will have its own living room.
Every two households will share a dining room.
Four households will make up a neighborhood.
There will be a Great Room for daily activities at the center of every neighborhood.

W E ’ R E  O N  T H E  M O V E

D I D  Y O U  K N O W . . .
The public could see the countless little courtesies shown to the residents every day by the employees, and realize how much the staff really cares about their welfare.”

**TV Drama to Feature Laguna Honda**

Laguna Honda will be a featured player in a television pilot called “Trauma” being made for NBC.

The show, which is set in San Francisco, will be filmed partly at the hospital. It tells the story of a group of first-response paramedics and how they save lives under extraordinary circumstances.


Filming will take place the last week of March. If the network picks up the pilot, Laguna Honda could be an ongoing backdrop in the show.

**Rock ’n’ Roll**

Blind Justice plays Moran Hall on March 14 at 2 p.m. The heavy metal band made up of moonlighting lawyers from Hanson Bridgett stops at Laguna Honda on its world tour.

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**Farm Day**

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**Alafia Dance Ensemble**

The African-Haitian group, based at City College, comes to Moran Hall on March 21 at 10:30 a.m.

**Correction**

In our last issue we neglected to include Medical Records in the list of departments that made the on-line census a reality. We apologize for the oversight. Congratulations to the medical records team for all the good work.

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**COMING EVENTS**

**HALLWAY CHATTER**

Tapestries Portray History, Offer Glimpse of the Future

Four tapestries depicting the history of Laguna Honda were installed late last month on the first and third floors. The tapestries are part of a series of 16 woven panels that will be hung along the corridor leading from Gerald Simon Theatre to the Esplanade when the new buildings open in 2010.

Designed by San Francisco artist Lewis DeSoto, and funded by the city’s Two Percent for Art program, the tapestries each depict a single decade in the 140-year life of Laguna Honda.

Fun Facts: They were woven in Brugge, Belgium and each have 18,000 threads from top to bottom.

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WE MOURN THE PASSING OF
JOHN KANALEY, OUR C.E.O.,
COLLEAGUE, AND FRIEND

John Kanaley Biography

John T. Kanaley was appointed Executive Administrator of Laguna Honda Hospital and Rehabilitation Center in 2004. He had 28 years of health care experience in hospital operations, construction, and start-up. He spent 14 years as a senior manager specializing in the planning, construction and opening of new healthcare facilities in Northern California, including the past four years as the C.E.O. of Laguna Honda.

John served for ten years in the facilities management division at San Francisco General Hospital overseeing capital projects including the AIDS Research Center and the Mental Health Rehabilitation Facility. He then spent 10 years with Kaiser Permanente managing the operations divisions during the construction and start-up of its acute care hospital in Fresno and a clinic in Oakhurst. Following his tenure at Kaiser, he returned to San Francisco General Hospital as chief of operations for four years before being appointed to Laguna Honda.

John was a marine engineer by training. He managed the operations of commercial shipping vessels, going to sea for nine years before entering the health care field. His combined healthcare and engineering experience made him uniquely qualified to guide healthcare construction projects from inception to completion.

John was an advisor to San Francisco mayor Gavin Newsom on healthcare issues as a member of the mayor’s Long Term Care Coordinating Council. He was regarded as a turn-around agent at Laguna Honda, which saw dramatic improvements in state licensing surveys under his tenure as well as award-winning recognition for its initiatives in culturally effective healthcare and employee training and advancement.

John held a bachelor’s degree in marine engineering from the California Maritime Academy in Vallejo and a master’s degree in public health from California State University, Fresno. He was the proud father of three children, ages 24, 16, and 13.

IN MEMORIAM
JOHN T. KANALEY
1957 - 2009

John, thank you for your friendship and your leadership. Laguna Honda made great progress in the last four years. We will all miss you.

SERVICES: There will be a viewing on Wednesday, March 25 at 5 PM at the Graham-Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First Street in Pleasanton, CA 94566. Phone: 925-846-5624. The funeral will be on Thursday, March 26 at 10 AM, also at the Graham-Hitch Mortuary. Internment will be at Lone Tree Cemetery Association, 24591 Fairview Avenue, Hayward, CA 94592

LAGUNA HONDA MEMORIAL: Friday, March 27, 1:00 - 2:00 PM, Moran Hall (3rd Floor), 375 Laguna Honda Blvd., San Francisco, CA 94116. A reception will follow hosted by family and friends.

DONATIONS: John Kanaley’s Children Education Trust Fund, c/o James Napoli, Hanson Bridgett LLP, 425 Market St. 26th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105. You may mail a check or bring it to the Administration Office.

CARDS AND PHOTOGRAPHS: Please stop by the Administration or Nursing Offices to sign cards for John’s family. Anyone with digital photos to contribute for a collage depicting John’s tenure at Laguna Honda can email them to rowena.tran@sfdph.org

INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR: Dr. Katz has appointed Mivic Hirose as interim Executive Administrator. Debbie Tam will assume Mivic’s duties as interim Chief Nursing Officer.
A Laguna Farewell

The Laguna Honda community paid its final respects to Executive Administrator John Kanaley on March 27 as an overflow crowd filled Moran Hall to recall the man whom Interim Executive Administrator Mivic Hirose described as the “caregiver-in-chief.”

The sound of bagpipes carried from Moran into the Laguna hallways as John’s fellow marine engineer Edward Craft Jr. opened the ceremony with Amazing Grace.

Supervisor Sean Elsbernd read a tribute entered into the Congressional Record by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and colleagues and friends shared stories and experiences of a gruff-voiced but unfailingly kind person who steered Laguna Honda toward a new era of excellence.

Laguna Honda chaplain Bob Deel led the ceremony, which was attended by the Kanaley family, including John’s children, John Jr., 24, Patricia, 16, and Christopher, 13.

There could be no more moving tribute to John than our continued work on behalf of people in need.

Contributions to John Kanaley’s Children’s Education Fund can be sent to James Napoli, Hanson Bridgett LLP, 425 Market St. 26th floor, San Francisco CA 94105.

Angela Platzer, chief of Laguna Honda’s clinical support division, is our March Employee of the Month, is a champion of innovation, a skillful communicator and a calm and steady presence in our fast-paced environment. In her 20 years at Laguna Honda, Angela has been a friend and mentor to dozens of employees, volunteers, and students, helping to build relationships and improve operations. Her kindness and support have been an inspiration to her staff and to employees throughout the hospital. Thanks, Angela. We appreciate all that you do.
A Chinese proverb says, “The beginning of wisdom is calling things by their right names.” Please contribute your personal wisdom to help name the households at the new Laguna Honda.

Each neighborhood in the new buildings will contain four 15-person households. To emphasize Laguna Honda’s community orientation, the households will no longer be known by a letter and a number, as our current units are. Instead, they will each be called by a name that reflects the natural beauty and sweeping vistas of our campus.

To mark your ballot, place an “x” next to four tree names and four landmark names. You may also enter suggestions of your own in each category.

**Trees**
- Cypress
- Juniper
- Manzanita
- Redwood
- Cedar
- Poplar
- Other:

**Landmarks**
- Buena Vista
- Marina
- Sierra
- Pacifica
- Miraloma
- Panorama
- Other:

Ballots may be turned in at the suggestion boxes on the first and fifth floors or at the General Store. Deadline is Tuesday April 14.