Andrea Learned, Gaye LeBaron and John Reed, M.D., share memories of their lifelong friendships with Al Maggini

LIVING A LEGACY: AL MAGGINI REMEMBERED
We said goodbye a few months ago to a man who embodied our mission and vision every day of his 107 years. Al Maggini was a force for compassion and generosity unmatched in our 73-year history. Everyone who knew him loved him, and to say he will be missed would be a vast understatement.

In this issue, you’ll hear from friends of the incomparable Al Maggini, sharing their memories of a life well-lived and the legacy of generosity and friendship he leaves behind. We share a profile of YaoYao Pollock, M.D., whose focus on geriatric oncology has added years to her patients’ lives as well as life to their years. And we invite you to learn more about Community Health Investment and the WeCare Fund, a program built with one goal in mind: to offer support to the unique needs of our most vulnerable patients, with flexibility and grace.

As we look back on our challenges and successes during the past year, we continue to marvel at the gifts, both tangible and abstract, that this community continues to provide for our Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital Foundation. We simultaneously grieve for what we have lost and rejoice in the love and light so freely given by you, our friends, family and neighbors.

Like the people profiled in this issue, your gifts of compassion continue to create a better world for our community. Your generosity tangibly improves the lives of patients and families facing tough times, and we thank you for your enduring support.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Kendall
President and Chief Philanthropy Officer

Heather DeMarinis
Chair, Foundation Board of Directors

To Our Loyal Supporters
Last April, Sonoma County said goodbye to a remarkable man, Albert “Al” Maggini, at the age of 107. Al was a passionate advocate and supporter of Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital throughout his life. He embodied our core values of integrity, dignity, and excellence and devoted himself to fulfilling our mission to meet the health care needs of our community.

Three longtime friends of Al’s, Andrea Learned, Gaye LeBaron and John Reed, M.D., generously shared their memories of Al and spoke to the legacy he and his wife Helen left behind.

“He lived until he died, which was such a blessing,” said Gaye, who recalled meeting him when she was just 15 while working at the Sonoma Index-Tribune. She later got to know him socially, as she and her husband were part of his circle of friends.

“We all have Al stories,” Gaye said, sharing her memories of Al’s stories from World War II. He began his service at age 27, which at that time, was past the draft cutoff age. “He didn’t have to go, but he felt compelled to,” Gaye said. “He told me that the only time he felt frightened was on his final mission. ‘I’ve been darn lucky’ he would say. He was a lucky guy and he knew it. He was a good man.”

In Al’s later years, Gaye shared that her “primary job was to make him cookies — cowboy cookies. I made sure he always had some,” she said. “He said his housekeeper ate them, but I know he was joking.”

Dr. John Reed, a retired cardiologist, met Al when he moved to Sonoma County in 1974 and they became fast friends. “He walked into a room and just lit up the room,” John said. “I never heard anyone say anything bad about him. He made everyone feel like you were already old friends.”

Widely described as “charming” and “dashing,” Al also famously “did not suffer fools,” John said. “He was by no means an intolerant person, but he didn’t need or want to be around anyone who wasn’t honest or courteous.”

Both Gaye and John spoke of Al’s commitment and generosity to Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital as having come from his relationship with his mother, as well as his Catholic upbringing. “He always felt that he needed to give back to his community,” John said. “His legacy is his Christian generosity and his capacity for friendship. He certainly was a friend to everyone who knew him.”

“I don’t think Al had regrets about decisions that he made. He knew what he wanted to do and got good at it. That’s a good life,” Gaye said. “We all just live day to day, doing the best we can, and the best he could do was pretty darn good.”

His legacy is his Christian generosity and his capacity for friendship. He certainly was a friend to everyone who knew him.

— John Reed, M.D.

Andrea Learned, who served as chief philanthropy officer for Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital Foundation for more than 20 years, expressed her gratitude and affection for Al and his unique charisma. “He was an incredibly special man,” she said. “His work — and really, his entire being — was instrumental to the advancement of the hospital. I feel so lucky to have known and had the opportunity to learn from him.” In particular, Andrea shared, Al was a natural and passionate fundraiser, since the very beginning. “He was a genius at working a room!” she said. “He’d charge in and find a way to check in with everyone. His feet would never stop moving, but he had a way to make everyone feel connected with him.”

To continue this legacy, we invite you to join the Al and Helen Maggini Legacy Society. Please reach out to Rebecca Kendall, chief philanthropy officer, at Rebecca.Kendall@providence.org or 951-818-5113.
Here are a few inspiring examples of how the WeCare Fund has helped people in our community overcome obstacles to improving their lives and health.

**In-home caregiving:** The need for in-home caregiving is growing and is often not covered by insurance. This kind of care is life-changing for people who need it and gives the priceless gift of being able to recuperate in their own home.

**Housecleaning:** For the chronically ill, keeping their home clean can be a challenge and is essential for their health and safety. A deep cleaning allows patients (and caregivers) to return to a home that is safe and comfortable.

**Trial chemotherapy drugs:** A patient in end-stage esophageal cancer was not able to afford a trial drug that was approved by insurance but had an exorbitant copay. After trying several other resources for funding, the WeCare Fund was able to cover the cost.

**Prescription medications:** A wonderful example of another unique need met was a patient who could not afford a $3,000 monthly copayment for TB medication. The WeCare Fund was able to cover the three months of medications the patient needed.

**Transportation:** Patients often need help with transportation to and from appointments, to pick up medications at the pharmacy, or to make sure they get the follow-up care they need to heal.

**One-off needs:** Amy and her team helped a patient who couldn’t afford dental work needed before beginning chemotherapy. Often, the WeCare Fund helps patients by paying for in-home care while they wait for Medi-Cal or Medicaid funds. Sometimes a patient’s family members can’t afford the cost of a hotel stay to be nearby. These unique needs can be met with flexibility, so patients and their loved ones can focus on their health.

“It’s a matter of knowing that we’re doing the best we can for people who really need it,” said Amy. “It can be such an overwhelming experience, dealing with serious health problems. And we can work with them for as long as they need and always take great care in teaching them how to advocate for themselves.”

One of Al Maggin’s many legacies was his passion for helping people who experienced financial challenges. During every holiday season, Al would spend $1,000 on gift cards to be given to struggling families in the community, to make sure they had enough money for a meal to share and gifts to give to family and friends. This tradition of generosity is one that illustrated Al’s amazing commitment to support the community he loved.

Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital Foundation’s WeCare Fund has helped thousands of Sonoma County residents make it through what is often the most difficult time of their lives, by offering solutions that will help fill the gap for people who need it.

The WeCare Fund is part of Community Health Investment and is a discretionary fund used to pay for myriad issues that come up as part of a patient’s health journey. “The beauty of these patient assistance programs is the flexibility,” said Amy Ramirez, manager, Community Health Investment. “Every case is unique, so it’s critical to be able to have this fund available, so we can say ‘yes, we can help you.’”

Amy and her incredibly resourceful team of social workers, nurse case managers and community health workers take care to find other options for covering these needs — such as insurance, Medi-Cal, Medicaid, etc. — and all patients are financially screened to determine the level of need. The WeCare Fund is truly the last resort for patients who have urgent health needs.

COMMUNITY HEALTH INVESTMENT

Resources and flexibility make miracles happen

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CONSIDERING A REVERSE MORTGAGE?

Explore this charitable alternative first

If you have paid off your mortgage or have considerable equity in your home but you need additional income, you may have considered a reverse mortgage. You may not be aware that there is another way to use the equity in your home to create income for you while making a meaningful gift for Providence Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital — all while continuing to live in or use your property for life.

How it works

This technique begins with a retained life estate gift — you place Providence Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital on the deed to your home, vacation home or farm but retain the right to occupy (and maintain) the property for life. We then set up a charitable gift annuity (CGA) based on the remainder value of the property. The CGA will pay you (and/or another beneficiary) a fixed annual income for life.

For example, let’s say that Robert and Rita, both 75, own a $750,000 home. To create income, they choose to make a retained life estate gift of their home with a CGA instead of using a reverse mortgage. Their guaranteed income payments will be partially tax-free, whereas reverse mortgage payments are not guaranteed and might be subject to additional costs. Robert and Rita receive an income tax deduction in the year of their gift (since they itemized and met other criteria), lock in a higher monthly payment when compared to what is available through a reverse mortgage, and enhance their charitable legacy.

Compelling advantages — for you and for us

- Turn an existing asset into an income stream while remaining in your home.
- Lock in today’s high gift annuity rates.
- Enjoy tax benefits because your gift likely qualifies for a charitable income tax deduction, and your CGA income payments are tax advantaged.
- Make a lasting impact on the lives in your community by helping Providence Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital.

70½ or older? Don’t forget about gift options from your IRA.

A tax-free qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your IRA counts toward your required minimum distribution if one is due.

The traditional QCD lets you give up to $100,000 (annual aggregate limit) directly from your IRA to Providence Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital.

The new QCD law lets you make a one-time distribution up to $50,000 to fund a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust (CRT), providing an income stream for you and/or your spouse. Spouses can combine their distributions into a single CRT or a joint-life CGA.

WELCOME GARRY OLNEY

Chief Executive, Northern California Service Area and Providence Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital

We are pleased to introduce Garry Olney as the new chief executive for our newly formed Northern California service area and Providence Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital. Garry has been with Providence for nine years, most recently serving as chief executive of Providence Little Company of Mary in San Pedro and Torrance for the past five years.

Before joining Providence, Garry worked for Ascension Health, the largest faith-based health system in the United States, and Tenet Healthcare. Garry holds multiple degrees, including a bachelor’s degree in nursing, a master’s degree in business administration and a Doctorate of Nursing Practice from Texas Tech University.

“Our Mission, vision and purpose are incredibly inspiring,” said Rebecca Kendall, chief philanthropy officer. “With Garry’s leadership, both in Sonoma County and our greater Northern California community, we will reach more of the people and places we are called to help.”

With this change in leadership, we say goodbye to Chuck Kassis, who led the hospital for the past two years with dedication and integrity. Chuck is an inspiring and committed leader, colleague and friend who will be missed. We wish him the best in his future endeavors.

Help us transform lives and create health for a better world.

Please reach out for more information about creative ways to support Providence Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital. Contact Rebecca Kendall, chief philanthropy officer, by phone at 951-818-5113 or by email at Rebecca.Kendall@providence.org.
A close relationship with her grandparents growing up was part of the inspiration for YaoYao Pollock, M.D., to have an interest in caring for older adults. Dr. Pollock first trained in geriatrics and was drawn to oncology when she saw that the specialized needs of senior cancer patients were often sidelined.

“When I first discovered the field of geriatric oncology, it was very new,” says Dr. Pollock. “Today it’s become a well-recognized subspecialty within the field of oncology.”

On the Providence Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital team for three years, Dr. Pollock chose to practice community medicine rather than a career in research. “I wanted to bring geriatric oncology to a community setting,” she says. “The oncologists here are amazing. I have great mentors and co-workers. When I joined, this was already a well-rounded and well-supported clinic. Because of the aging population in Sonoma County, I feel I can make an impact here.”

Finding the right approach

According to Dr. Pollock, treating geriatric cancer patients, those over 65, requires an understanding of how people age differently. “We look at functional age rather than chronological age. You can have a frail 75-year-old who may not tolerate a therapy that works well for a fit 90-year-old.”

Finding the right treatment approach is very individualized in other ways. Dr. Pollock works to balance helping patients maintain independence and quality of life while providing life-prolonging cancer treatment. “When we decide on therapies, we find out what our patients want for their lives,” she shares. “Some people are solely focused on quality of life for the time they have remaining while others want us to do everything we can to extend life.”

Dr. Pollock finds deep meaning and satisfaction in her work. “I love oncology because patients need someone who cares about what they want, who will listen to their wishes, and who will be there to hold their hand. This is a life-changing diagnosis, but I’m here to help walk them through it. It’s very rewarding to be with patients during this time, and it’s a really important role in health care.”

Dr. Pollock praises the team of physicians for creating an environment of collaboration, and shares how important that was for her. “When I met with the group here, I saw right away that the oncologists were amazing,” she said. “They are great mentors, great co-workers, and extremely intelligent. Our team also consists of amazing nurses, social workers, nutritionists, navigators and palliative care providers, who work together to provide the best cancer care that focuses on the whole person.”
DANCING WITH LIFE’S CHALLENGES

Milton and Tina Collis share why they can’t stop talking about Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital’s oncology center

Milton and Tina Collis feared the worst when Milton, 92, was diagnosed with bone marrow cancer. Still, they and their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren met the challenge with characteristic positivity and optimism. Milton began treatment at Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital’s oncology center, working with YaoYao Pollock, M.D.

As the couple adjusted their lives to focus on his cancer treatment, dialysis three days a week, and blood transfusions every three weeks, Milton worried that he wouldn’t make it to their 71st wedding anniversary in June.

Turning the corner

Fast forward a few months, and everything has changed. “Dr. Pollock saved my life,” Milton said. She and her colleagues recommended a medication that eliminated the need for injections. “Ever since he’s been on that pill, everything — red cells, white cells, everything — is better than it’s ever been,” Tina said. “And it’s all because of her. She is wonderful.” Milton wholeheartedly shared his wife’s sentiment. “She is very, very attentive. We just can’t say enough good about her. She is excellent.”

The Collises believe that the improvement in Milton’s health is due to the special attention the staff at the Oncology Center gives to their patients. “They’re all very caring, nurses, technicians, everyone — you’re not just a number,” he said. “It’s because of them that I have this attitude. Of course, there are ill effects from chemo, but I feel so good, like I could go on for another 10 years.”

Milestone celebration

When June rolled around, Milton and Tina knew they would be able to celebrate their wedding milestone — with some surprise help from Dr. Pollock and the oncology center staff. “She threw us a party!” Tina said. “Dr. Pollock and her wonderful assistant, Jennifer Cazares, brought champagne glasses with apple cider, flowers, even cookies with our names on them. Everyone came in, even people we didn’t know! She did something extra special for us. She is very special.”

The couple keeps making new memories as they continue into their seventh decade of marriage. “The thing we miss most is dancing,” Tina said, explaining that Milton previously used a walker to get around. “Well, a week ago, I was fixing breakfast, and he tapped me on the shoulder to ask me to dance! There was no music, so he sang. We have been so blessed, and we know it.”

Milton and Tina Collis share why they can’t stop talking about Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital’s oncology center

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Please make a donation today

Your donation can provide lifesaving care to our community. Please visit give.providence.org/norcal-srmh or scan the code at right to make a gift today.

SAVE THE DATE

AI and Helen Maggini Legacy Luncheon

Friday, February 9, 2024