

KEYSTONE

of *Hope*

M
G
A



Myasthenia Gravis
Association of Western Pennsylvania
at Allegheny General Hospital
A Treatment & Advocacy Center

A smile IS A *curve*

THAT SETS *everything* STRAIGHT

— PHYLLIS DILLER

Our 4th Annual COMEDY FOR A CAUSE on SATURDAY, APRIL 28th will definitely make you smile and laugh, and (no guarantees, but) hopefully set everything straight. We're returning to the spacious SOKOL CLUB BANQUET HALL on the South Side, with three hilarious comedians to entertain you – headliner **John Evans**, as seen on Comedy Central, feature comic **Jeff Konkle**, often heard on WDVE radio, and our EmCee **Mike Sasson** from RiversEdge Radio. We've got a delicious dinner buffet, and affordably-priced cash bar, and of course our fabulous basket raffle, live and silent auctions and more. Reserved seat tickets for dinner and show are \$40, and general admission tickets for the show only are \$20. Buy tickets online at www.slapstickproductions.com or call us at 412-566-1545.

FOURTH ANNUAL COMEDY FOR A CAUSE

Proceeds Benefit Myasthenia Gravis Association of Western Pennsylvania (MGA)

Funny Feature JEFF KONKLE Heard On WDVE Radio!	Hilarious Headliner JOHN EVANS Comedy Central!	Humorous Host MIKE SASSON From RiversEdge Radio!
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Plus Silent & Live Auctions Basket Raffle & much more!

Saturday - April 28
SOKOL Club Banquet Hall
2912 East Carson Street - Pittsburgh, PA 15203

\$40* Includes Dinner & Show • \$20* Show Only • Cash Bar
Doors 6:30 • Dinner: 7:00 • Show 8:00 • Guests 21 & Over
Tickets On Sale at MGA Office: 412-566-1545
Purchase Tickets Online at www.slapstickproductions.com

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WALK FOR A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Highmark is an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

FRIENDS OF MGA, BOTH FAR AND NEAR...

Calling all walkers, donors, virtual walkers, and even scooters (*like our own Donna Kalisek*). Join us in this year's Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community on May 12th, commencing at Stage AE near Heinz Field. Choose from a one mile fun walk or the 5K. With donations of \$30 or more, walkers will receive an official walk T-shirt. There are lots of great prizes you can win too. Form a team and walk in honor or in memory of a love one with MG, or join Donna Kalisek's team, "It Takes a Pill-Age." It's a fun event and even those who live far away can be part of the action as a donor. To learn more, visit the MGA page at <http://hcf.convio.net/walkformga>.

BRUSH FOR BOB

This year marks our fourth annual BRUSH FOR BOB, a PAINT N' SIP event, to benefit MGA's FREE patient support services. This year is special because it takes place at an actual winery! The event is slated for SATURDAY, APRIL 7th at THISTLETHWAITE VINEYARDS, 151 Thistlethwaite Lane, in Jefferson, PA 15344. The fun starts at 6:00pm with a free wine tasting. Participants also receive a free glass of wine and light refreshments. A basket raffle and 50/50 raffle will also be featured. Wine will be available for purchase by the glass or bottle. Brush for Bob is created and organized by Melissa Folman, sister of MGA Board President Bob Cribbs. Tickets for Brush for Bob are \$40 and must be purchased by 3/28. For tickets, go to <https://buytickets.at/mgawpa>.

MY CHART

By **Cindy Spring, RN, CCM**
MGA Patient Support Coordinator



In all relationships clear communication is vital. The ability for information to flow between partners allows each to understand what the other is thinking and what is required to allow their joint venture to succeed. This can apply in marriage, business, on a sports team or between a doctor and patient. Communication between a patient and doctor can be absolutely critical and life altering.

Gone are the days of one doctor knowing your entire family history from birth to death, providing gentle care through every illness. We now live in a world of specialists, where, even with the best intentions and efforts, there can be a failure of transition and information making it from the hands of one provider to another. With the rise of the aging baby boom population, and declining numbers of all medical professionals, this situation will only continue to increase. Clear, concise communication is so very important. Patients and their families need to be active participants in their health care, asking for test results,

what their medications are for and what side effects they have, tracking symptoms to report to the doctor clearly, and having questions ready for their office visits. By doing these things you will be a partner who is actively communicating with your doctor and assisting him or her in providing you the best care available. It is your body, your life after all, right? Therefore, it's your responsibility to participate in the process.

Allegheny Health Network has made My Chart, a secure portal to your healthcare record, available to you to facilitate your needs for information and communication with your doctor. My Chart allows you to: view test results, request prescription renewals, pay bills, update insurance information, schedule virtual and in-person appointments, send and receive online messages, download a copy of your health record, check in online, find a doctor or office location and more. It's quick to sign up, easy to use and completely secure. You can access My Chart from your home computer, tablet or smartphone.

To sign up for My Chart go to **MyChart.ahn.org** and click "Sign Up Now" to create your account today. It's one more way to stay informed and advocate for your health!



grateful hearts

RON KUBITZ from **FORMS & SURFACES** personally delivered a generous donation to MGA from his employer, in partnership with **AEC STAFFING**. He is pictured here with **Maree Gallagher** and **Cindy Spring, RN**. Big thanks to Ron, for designating MGA for this gift from both companies. *Ron and his wife Charlene are long-time supporters of MGA.*



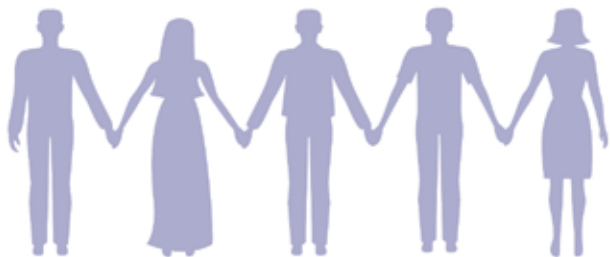
Welcome CARLA

Hello, my name is **Carla Kelly-Jones** and I am the new **Medical Assistant** at MGA. I am married and am the mother of 5 children, four of whom are grown adults. I have one teenager still at home. I grew up in the Wilkesburg/Churchill area and currently reside in Verona. Many years ago, I lived in Gaustadt, Germany, (Bamberg) where I studied Business Administration and Management. I then returned to America to work in corporate banking, but I decided to change my career and go back to school 15 years ago to be a Certified Medical Assistant.

I have thirteen years of experience as a medical assistant and have worked in a variety of healthcare settings. I have a desire to help people with kindness, caring and to be part of a positive organization that truly cares about people as a whole. What a blessing - I have found just the place here at MGA. I am very grateful to be working with a great staff where our focus is to provide all around support for our patients who are diagnosed with MG. I am enjoying meeting our patients on clinic days and assisting them over the phone. *My goal is to continue learning about MG and help to provide a quality of care to the patients.* I strive to be as productive for the doctors, patients, and staff as I possibly can be, and hopefully bring a smile to the faces of everyone I encounter.

NEWS from MGFA

By **Mike Ursic**, MGA & MGFA Board Member



The MG Friends Program is a patient-to-patient phone support service that provides practical advice, an understanding ear, and emotional support from a trained volunteer who is also facing the challenges of a life with MG. Sponsored by the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America (MGFA), the service is available to MG patients, care givers and family members anywhere in the United States and is **FREE** of charge. To sign up, please visit www.myasthenia.org/HowcanIhelp/Volunteer.aspx

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS ★ ★ ★ BENEFITTING MGA

You can remember or honor a loved one or commemorate a special occasion by making a tax deductible gift to the Myasthenia Gravis Association in their name. A thank you letter will be sent acknowledging your contribution. Help those affected by this chronic life limiting illness today by making a celebratory gift payable to MGA. Send a check or go on the MGA website (www.mgawpa.org) and use the **'DONATE NOW'** button for credit card donations. Call the MGA office at 412-566-1545 if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Save THE Date

Support Groups: **3RD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH** – 1pm to 2:30pm
Allegheny General Hospital & Beaver Medical Center
Email: donnak@mgawpa.org
Kingston, New York: **2ND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH** – 11am to 12:30
Email: cwby1335@aol.com
Virtual Support Group – www.facebook.com/mgawpa



2017 Pooch Parade photos by Bob Cribbs.

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9th Annual MGA

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Editor: Maree Gallagher, MGA Executive Director

Editorial Assistant: Donna Kalisek, MGA Administrative Coordinator

Contributors: Donna Kalisek, MGA Administrative Coordinator

Cindy Spring, RN, CCM – MGA Patient Support Coordinator

Carla Kelly-Jones, MGA Medical Assistant

Mike Ursic, MGA Board Member

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Details on page 1

**4TH ANNUAL
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April 28, 2018

Sokol Club, South Side
Details on page 1



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