

THE ADVOCATE

A quarterly publication of The Advocates for Upstate Medical University

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Fall 2020

Mystery, Malt & Merlot Online Auction set for Oct. 19 through Oct. 24

Dining, jewelry, artwork, décor, wines, sports memorabilia and getaway packages are a few of the dozens of items up for bid when Advocates for Upstate holds its Mystery, Malt & Merlot Online Auction, beginning at noon, Monday, Oct. 19 and running through 6 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 24. The Presenting Sponsor for the online auction is Summerwood Pediatrics. To participate visit <https://Advocates2020.ggo.bid> beginning Oct. 19. Check out our Facebook page soon for a preview of select items.

A raffle for a diamond pendant, courtesy of Egon Ehrlnspiel Jewelers, and a raffle for

mystery items are included in the event. The event proceeds benefit the upcoming Golisano Center for Special Needs of the Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital.

Mystery, Malt & Merlot is traditionally held in April and attracts hundreds of people to a venue which features wine and craft beer tastings, a silent auction, dinner and a mystery to solve. This marks the first year that the event is being presented as an online auction due to limitation restrictions as a result of COVID-19.

Visit www.upstate.edu/advocates for more information about the event.

Nearly \$120,000 in grants supports Upstate's Mission

Nearly \$120,000 was awarded to 59 Upstate projects through the Advocates' 2020-2021 grant-funding program. **A few of the programs receiving support include:**

- Upstate New York Poison Center: a family guide to poison prevention and the distribution of medicine lock boxes to reduce unintentional poisonings;

- Pediatrics: hospital school program resource materials and support of the "Wee Care Through Cancer" and "Patient Experience Awards" programs. Funding will also support the "Creating a welcoming environment for patients at the Child Abuse Referral and Evaluation (CARE) Clinic" program;

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A message from our President

Dear Advocate for Upstate,



Tracy Ryder

I hope that this message finds you well and safe. As you now know, Mystery, Malt & Merlot has transitioned to an online auction featuring dozens of wonderful items and the opportunity to win a diamond pendant and mystery items. We hope that you visit the online auction (<https://Advocates2020.ggo.bid>) beginning Oct. 19 at noon through 6 p.m. on Oct. 24 and make your bid(s). You'll soon be able to preview some of the items on our Facebook page. Please share our Facebook page with your

friends to help us get the word out and to make this event a success!

Service is a big part of our mission and our Service Committee is working diligently to find ways in which our members can help where help is needed in a safe way. We'll keep you posted on their progress.

We also hope that you continue to visit our vendors: Lori's Gifts, Bee Loved, PerkUp, Café Kubal, and Upstate Bistro. Proceeds from sales benefit Advocates for Upstate and the Upstate community. TeleHealth is also a vendor that provides television service to patients.

Stay well and safe!

Debra Gamble joins Advocates for Upstate as administrative coordinator

Debra Gamble has joined Advocates for Upstate as administrative coordinator. In this position, she reports to the Advocates' Board of Directors and plays a critical role in the organization's successful operation. She replaces Jonathan Adler who retired in May.

Debra has experience in operations and programmatic financial management, research and contracts oversight, program start-up, event coordination, marketing and public relations. "I am excited to use my experience and skills to help the Advocate volunteers," says Debra.

Debra joins us most recently from Syracuse University after 10 years of service. She has held healthcare and academic administrative positions in Houston, Texas working at Baylor College of Medicine, the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, and Rice University.

She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from SUNY Oswego and an associate's degree in medical office science from Jefferson Community College, Watertown, NY.

Originally from the Central New York area, Debra enjoys working on her home and garden, as well as caring for her rescue dog and cats.

Meet The Advocate—Barbara LaBarge

Barbara LaBarge was named the 2019-2020 Advocate of the Year for her hard-work, professionalism, and dedication to the Advocates and, in particular, to Mystery, Malt & Merlot.

Barbara was introduced to the Advocates by her friend and then Board member, Jeanne Seale. After joining the Advocates' Board in 2016, she immediately became part of Mystery, Malt & Merlot, where she served as chair of the

Wine Mystery Committee and, for the past three years, as chair and co-chair of the event. She was elected Board Treasurer in 2018, a position which she currently holds.



Barbara LaBarge, Advocate of the Year

Barbara's affiliation with Upstate Medical University was as a student in the Medical

Technology program, part of the university's College of Health Professions. She graduated with a bachelor's degree, received distinction as a specialist in Blood Banking and worked in the Blood Bank at Upstate for several years. She received her master's degree in Professional Studies in Health Administration and worked in several physician practices

over the years. She currently works with her husband in his business, Yankee Tronics, Inc. Her daughter, Alison, son-in-law, Nick, and two grandchildren live in Hopkinton, Massachusetts.

Fifteen Upstate individuals receive scholarships totaling \$30,000

2020-2021 Nellie Hurley Scholarships totaling \$30,000 were given to 15 Upstate employees and adult volunteers who are pursuing undergraduate degrees in the health professions.

Congratulations to our 2020-2021 recipients:

Samantha Clark
Coralee Everett
Jessica Gorman
Mary Locastro

Karen McVitie
Anjali Malhotra
Cara Miller
Angie Minikhiem
Shannon Noce
Angela Sagneri
Gerald Sawyer
Emily Spadaro
Kevin Stalder
Zaccariah Vanetti
Elizabeth Young

ADVOCATES FOR UPSTATE

Supporting healthcare and scholarship
through fundraising and service

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Debra Gamble

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Upstate.edu/advocates



Nearly \$120,000 in Grants...

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- Transitional Care Unit: heart failure pilot project and the “Patients’ Unmet Needs” program;
- Nursing: a Medikin doll to aid in teaching children about procedures before they happen;
- Orthopedic Surgery: a wearable posture feedback training device to improve neck/back pain;
- Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation: the Therapeutic Recreation Patient & Family Enrichment” program for the Stroke Support Group;
- Advocates funding also will support several events, including National Hospital Week and Employee Recognition Day Celebration. Visit upstate.edu/advocates for the complete list of 2020-2021 grant recipients.

Support the Advocates through the United Way/ Community Giving campaigns

Contributions designated to Advocates for Upstate can now be made through the SEFA/United Way or Upstate’s Community Giving campaigns. Look for the Advocates for Upstate designation in your pledge materials and thank you for considering a gift to Advocates for Upstate. For more information about the Community Giving Campaign visit <https://www.upstate.edu/communitygiving/>.

