

The History of Holiday Lights

The tradition of Christmas lights stretches back to early Germany when people used candles to decorate Christmas trees in Christian homes. Those candles were harbingers of what would come when electric lights replaced gas and other open flame illuminating devices that were commonplace prior to the 20th century.

Thomas Edison, the inventor of the first successful practical light bulb, also created the first strand of electric lights that would be used in holiday decorating. By 1880, Edison had standard incandescent light bulbs well sorted out and desired a way to better advertise his invention. He lit a string of them in his New Jersey laboratory which was situated along a railroad so thousands of people saw the display.

The concept took a bit of time to catch on and was reserved for the wealthy and electrically savvy. In 1903 a string of electric lights cost \$12 or in today's money about \$300.

On Christmas Eve 1923, President Calvin Coolidge began the country's celebration by lighting the National Christmas Tree south of the White House with 3,000 electric lights.

(article taken from Unified Newspaper Group, Making Spirits Bright)



Upcoming Events

- Dec. 1 Love light ceremony at 4:30 in the Bryant Center
- Dec. 3 Picture with Santa in sleigh- downtown from 11am-3pm
Corner of Main & Division Street
- Dec. 6 Bake and craft sale in the lobby- bring your goodies on Dec. 5 in the afternoon- we need lots of choices!
- Dec. 8-9 Books are Fun in the lobby or Bryant Center
- Dec. 21 Bingo at the Senior Center

Partners of Stoughton Hospital

Newsletter —December 2016

PARTNERS OFFICERS—FY 2016/2017

President—Melanie Miller 608-513-9894

Vice President—Judy Furseth 873-9817

Secretary—Judy Simmonds 873-1613

Treasurer—Dawn Windland 815-742-4935

President's Message

Greetings to all you wonderful "Partners" members. I am excited to have the opportunity to address all of you each month through our newsletter. Every month will bring a short message and a big thank -you to those who have helped our organization to thrive and grow.

So this month's message is: **Never forget to say thank-you.** Be genuinely appreciative of those who have given of their time, talent, and energy to help someone. People who help out aren't necessarily looking for recognition, but a thank-you will let them know that their efforts did not go unnoticed. A thank-you will make them feel good inside and put a smile on your face as well.

So with that said, I need to extend some special thank-yous for the last few weeks.

Thank-you to Judeen Reese and the committee members for presenting the holiday picture event downtown Stoughton on Dec. 3rd.

Thank you to Marlene Bierman, Doris Burdick and committee for their coordination of the bake sale.

Thank you to the Love Light Committee for their efforts in putting together another Love Light Celebration.

*Thank -you to Judy Furseth, Bev Mansfield, Sue Weum, Joanne Peterson, and Norval Morgan for accepting positions as **new members of the Partners Board** for this coming year.*

Thank -you to the committee that is working hard on hosting the Spring District meeting of the area hospital "Partners" groups. It will be great! Thank you to our members who are actively working with committees which are sponsoring events at the Hospital, or for the Hospital, during the next few weeks. We need and appreciate you all!

Well now that I'm grinning from ear to ear, have a wonderful holiday season. Consider a Love light contribution. Make a New Year's resolution for health and happiness in 2017 and resolve to help with one or more Partner's events than you did in 2016. And last but not least, encourage a friend or find



someone new to join us as Partners of the Stoughton Hospital in 2017!

Address Change:
Jo Petersen
608-843-2328
28489 Northern Lights Dr
Garrison, MN 56450

Gift Shop News by Becky.....

It's beginning to look a LOT like Christmas in here.

Lots of light up wall canvas prints and glass vases; Home décor, jewelry, scarves and shawls, gloves, Jim Shore Santas, snowmen, and ornaments, and many many other lovely things.

If you haven't stopped in, please visit us– you will be amazed at how many fun things we can put in a little spot! We have stocking stuffers too!

Starting December 8 we will again have the 12 days of Christmas. A different item will be 25% OFF each day.



HaPpY HoLiDaYs!!!!!!!

Calendar of Events

Heart Health– Know your Numbers– learn more about heart disease, your own personal risks, S.M.A.R.T. goals for health changes, and measuring success to positively impact your health. This FREE class includes lunch. 11am-noon

Call 608-251-1675 ext 102 or go to www.wwhf.org/events to register.

Red Cross Blood Drive Friday, December 18 from 8am-1pm.

Call 1-800-REDCROSS to make an appointment. A great time of year to give an hour of your time and life saving blood for someone in need.



How shopping locally can help you and your community

Today's consumers have more shopping options at their disposal than ever. Though the Internet may put the world at one's fingertips, more and more shoppers are discovering that buying locally makes for a superior shopping experience.

It keeps money in the local economy. Small business owners employ local residents, and support neighborhood efforts.

Shopping locally can save time and fuel making good economic sense. Local merchants are likely to price match to their loyal repeat customers.

Many times local business owners have more unique styles than big box stores.

Small businesses are an essential element in the country's economic growth. Show your support of this important segment of our economy.

Help establish local pride. Independent shops contribute to the fabric of what makes a community special and unique. Travelers will remember the feel of a community by the local stores.

If local businesses survive and thrive, others follow, like banks, restaurants, salons, and others. Shopping locally benefits consumers and contributes to a healthy local economy.