

Retired nurse honored with Hadley HEROES Award

Submitted by Joan Jaeger

After a 40-year distinguished career in nursing specializing in hospice care, Angie Lauderbach, 81, of Arlington Heights, was planning to spend her later years with her grandchildren, traveling the country and giving back to her community through volunteering.

That all changed three years ago following a failed corneal transplant surgery that left her legally blind.

"I became terribly depressed, particularly after I could no longer make out faces and had to stop driving my car. I lost my eyesight and freedom all at the same time," said Lauderbach, who is among the growing population of aging Americans who



COURTESY OF HADLEY

Angie Lauderbach of Arlington Heights has been named a recipient of Hadley's inaugural HEROES award for her contributions in helping develop Hadley's new learning platform.

experience vision loss due to macular degeneration, glaucoma or diabetic retinopathy.

"I spent my entire career as an RN, helping others through their grief and loss, and here I

was with no idea what to do."

Lauderbach searched out resources for talking books and a low-vision support group near her. It was there she learned about Winnetka-based Hadley, a leading provider of distance and online learning for those with vision loss. Hadley provides a wide selection of workshops, discussion groups and live support from experts — all at no cost.

"Angie came to us at the most opportune time," said Julie Tye, president and CEO of Hadley. "We were embarking on the development phase of reinventing our entire digital footprint and approach to teaching. Hadley.edu, which was built on many months of research based on the needs, wants and desires of visually

impaired adults."

Lauderbach served as one of Hadley's very first advisers, providing valuable input and perspective on workshops and what kinds of topics would be most helpful to someone like her, who is new to vision loss.

Lauderbach's early participation served as the model for later engaging others with vision loss for feedback as advisers for the new Hadley.edu.

Launched in July of 2020, the new platform has already attracted more than 10,000 learners who have taken more than 50,000 workshops.

In recognition for her contributions, Lauderbach has been named a recipient of Hadley's inaugural HEROES Award.

"Angie has truly helped Hadley be our best by taking the time to give us her insights and honest feedback," says Tye. "That kind of help is invaluable, and we will never take it for granted."

"It was an honor to help Hadley," said Lauderbach. "My advice to anyone experiencing vision loss is to take advantage of the many resources available through Hadley. They are always there right at your fingertips. You may have lost your sight, but never lose sight of what's truly important, and that is the contribution that the visually impaired can make on others."

• Submit 'Your News' at www.dailyherald.com/share.

Elk Grove High student chosen to attend medical congress

Des Plaines resident **Jovanna Mathai**, a sophomore at Elk Grove High School, was chosen as a delegate to the Congress of Future Medical Leaders, which is being held virtually June 26 and 27.

During the two-day congress, Mathai will join students from across the country and hear Nobel laureates and National Medal of Science winners talk about leading medical research; be given advice from Ivy League and top medical school deans on what to expect in medical school; witness stories told by patients who are living medical miracles; be inspired by fellow teen medical science prodigies; and learn about cutting-edge advances and the future in medicine and medical technology.

Norrine Twohey
Neighbors in the news

Mathai's nomination was signed by Dr. Mario Capecchi, winner of the Nobel Prize in Medicine and the science director of the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists, to represent Elk Grove High School and the state of Illinois based on her academic achievement, leadership potential and determination to



COURTESY OF JOVANNA MATHAI

Jovanna Mathai was chosen to be a delegate to the Congress of Future Medical Leaders.

serve humanity in the field of medicine.

• **Yuliana Tellez** of Waukegan, a sophomore at Woodlands Academy of the Sacred Heart, Lake Forest, won first prize in this year's Illinois Churches in Action's Alcohol Awareness Month Poster Contest.

The theme of the statewide competition, open to all Illinois students in grades 6-12, was "Don't Do Drugs, Alcohol is a Drug."

For winning first-place honors, Tellez receives a new laptop computer.

Her poster depicts a metaphorical wall.

"I drew a physical wall to exemplify the visible and concealed effects of alcohol," she said. "One side of the wall is clearly bubbly, blissful, carefree and colorful, while the other side deals with physiological demons, depression



COURTESY OF WOODLANDS ACADEMY

This poster, created by Woodlands Academy sophomore Yuliana Tellez of Waukegan, won first place in Illinois Churches in Action's 26th annual statewide Alcohol Awareness Month Poster Contest.

and darkness."

Illinois Churches in Action is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing problems caused by alcohol, other drugs and gambling. It does so by providing education outreach to youth, churches, schools and

community groups.

• Attorney **Joseph A. Olszowka Jr.** has joined the Family and Divorce Law practice group at Schaumburg-based Lavelle Law.

Since 1996, Olszowka has been the principal attorney at



COURTESY OF LAVELLE LAW

Joseph A. Olszowka, Jr.

the Law Offices of Joseph A. Olszowka, Jr., where he successfully litigated hundreds of cases, including complex divorce, parental allocation, parentage, child support, business valuation, adoption and domestic violence cases.

"Joseph brings nearly 30 years of experience handling family law cases to Lavelle Law," said Lavelle Law Managing Partner Ted McGinn. "He will be a great addition to our highly regarded team, and we look forward to hearing his insights and sharing his expertise with our clients."

Olszowka attended John Marshall Law School, has a certificate in family law, is on the DuPage and Will County approved Child Representative/Guardian ad Litem appointment list, and is an approved mediator in DuPage County and Will County for family law cases.

• **Anne Pillion** of Glenview

was the recipient of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's Community Volunteer Award.

The award recognizes volunteers whose contributions of time and talent have significantly impacted their local community and advanced JDRF's mission to cure, prevent and treat Type 1 diabetes (T1D) and its complications.

Anne Pillion and her husband, Bob, have three children; their son Jack lives with T1D.

Pillion has been a volunteer for JDRF Illinois in many ways, starting with her family's participation at the annual JDRF One Walk and going on to volunteer at various events, including the JDRF Ride to Cure Diabetes.

She also served as the auction co-chair for the annual JDRF One Dream Gala helping to cultivate a robust auction of more than 400 packages that raised over \$500,000.

Pillion didn't stop there, volunteering as a JDRF Illinois board member. She has also hosted home pop-ups for local residents that benefits twofold — supporting local Glenview businesses with a portion of sales donated to JDRF.

"I volunteer at JDRF because I want my son to know that his world is a better place because of all that JDRF is doing to help people living with T1D," said Pillion.

Animals, plants and nature

Submit events at www.dailyherald.com/share; deadline is two weeks prior to event.

Be a Better Birder — Birding and Technology: Virtually at 6 p.m. Thursday, June 17, Forest Preserves of Cook County. Join as a representative from the Forest Preserves introduces you to technology that can be used to enhance your birding experience. Register at beabetterbirdertechnology.eventbrite.com.



COURTESY OF CITY OF PROSPECT HEIGHTS

What better time is there for a walk in a park? A pop-up gallery of nature-inspired art is on exhibit from now until the fall season at Izaak Walton Park, 201 N. Elmhurst Road, Prospect Heights. There are several art installations already on-site, but expect more throughout the summer. For information, contact Julie Caporusso at jcaporusso@phparks.org.

Saturday, June 19, and Sunday, June 20, River Trail Nature Center, 3120 Milwaukee Ave., Northbrook. Join at feeding time to learn about River Trail's display animals and their unique habits. Wear masks and practice physical distancing. Call (847) 824-8360.

Master Gardeners Answer Plant Questions: 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturdays, through Oct. 30, at the Arlington Heights Farmers Market, 110 W. Fremont, Arlington Heights. The University of Illinois Extension Cook County Master Gardeners will answer your plant questions. If you can't make it, email the Answer Desk at NorthCook-MG@gmail.com.

The Unburied Treasure Hunt: 2 p.m. Sunday, June 20, River Trail Nature Center, 3120 Milwaukee Ave., Northbrook.

Pick up a treasure map at the welcome tent, then decode the clues along the trails to find the unburied treasure. Unvaccinated visitors must wear a mask indoors at all times and must wear a mask outdoors when physical distancing (six feet from other people) is not possible. Call (847) 824-8360.

Summer Solstice: 10 a.m. Sunday, June 20, Crabtree Nature Center, 2 Stover Road, Barrington Hills. Learn about the science and cultural connections of the longest day of the year, then enjoy a peaceful, meditative walk to breathe in the calm of nature. Unvaccinated visitors must wear a mask indoors at all times and wear a mask outdoors when physical distancing (six feet from other people) is not possible. Registration required at (847) 381-6592.



COURTESY OF JENNY KUSTRA-QUINN

From left, Dr. Elaine Aumiller, Vicki Chung, Jennifer Kobus, Kimberly Fay, Rachael Rothrauff, Jennifer Ciok, Eileen Kowalczyk and Kevin Bull.

Dist. 57 welcomes board members

Submitted by Jenny Kustra-Quinn

Mount Prospect Elementary School District 57 administered the oath of office to new school board members Kevin Bull and Jennifer Ciok and returning board members Vicki Chung and Eileen Kowalczyk.

They join board members Kimberly Fay, Jennifer Kobus and Rachael Rothrauff.

The board once again selected Eileen Kowalczyk to serve as president and selected

Kimberly Fay as vice president. Virginia Webster was reappointed as secretary.

The school district also honored outgoing board members Brian Maye and Gerry McCluskey and thanked them for their dedicated leadership and the countless hours they have volunteered.

Maye, who served four years, and McCluskey, who served six, are stepping down at the end of their terms.

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