

What's Mime is Yours *from the desk of the artistic director Bob Kloos*

This may be one of the last pieces of mail you receive from your letter carrier this year. (It may even be 2009 in your time zone already.) For that reason alone, this is the last end-of-the-year appeal you will receive, until next Thanksgiving. It seems every nonprofit I have ever heard of sent me a Christmas greeting and request this year. But it is my job to remind you of what we tell clients every time they say they cannot afford the full fee that Beacon Street charges: "We have generous donors who take care of us year to year." You will find our appeal letter on page seven. (By the way, our fees have not gone up in nearly eight years, and they have never covered our actual costs.)

The Giant Eagle Foundation has once again helped us with a generous gift, this time in the amount of \$6000. For the past several years, Giant Eagle has enabled us to launch critical initiatives and manage large capital purchases. This year, they have helped us acquire new software that will help us track our clients, donors, and mailing list more efficiently. Part-time office manager Pam Kestner will be up to speed soon and we believe the new program will help us be better stewards of our resources. Thank you Giant Eagle.

Mark Malangoni, MD, is leaving our board. Five years of service allowed him two stints as board president and his insights on challenges such as fundraising and program development proved very fruitful. He promised to continue to support Beacon Street. Our household was particularly grateful when he invited my son, David, to look over his shoulder during some surgeries at Metro. David was in Montessori eighth grade at the time and was encouraged to investigate possible career choices for a week. He wore a tie every day and Mark introduced him to his colleagues as "David, my Doogie Houser, MD." Thank you Mark for enhancing our ministry and enriching the lives of board members, and my family, too.

Beacon Street's Twelfth Annual "Have A

Heart" fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, February 7th. The venue this time around will include hearty appetizers, music, and artful auction items along with several sports items of interest. Most importantly, it is a gathering of friends at that time of winter when we desperately need hopeful people to remind us spring will come. Why not do that with us, especially if you have ever heard yourself say: "One of these years I will attend Beacon Street's event." This is your year. You can download one of our HAH invitations from our website: beacon-street.org. Click on "2009 Have A Heart Fundraiser!" and print the page. Then fun begins. You can start to put together your table of eight.

Office Manager and event coordinator Pam Kestner welcomes volunteers! She will need willing hands to help set up the morning of and check out winners after the auction. Also, continuing one of our favorite traditions of providing a selection of homemade cookies for dessert, she is looking for bakers as well. If you have the time and talent, please contact Pam at 216-291-1367 or beacon.street@sbcglobal.net. Thank you for lending a hand to Have a Heart.

This may be your last Beacon! In the last three issues, we asked readers to let us know by email, phone, or post if they would like to continue to receive our newsletter. We think that many on our mailing list may no longer have the same interest in our ministry they had when they first signed up. So in an effort to cut printing and postage costs, we will trim our mailing list substantially. If we have not heard from you, you might no longer hear from us. If you act quickly, however, you can stay connected. Use the envelope folded into this newsletter, put a stamp on it, and get it back to us right away. Hurry!

We hope your Christmas days were blessed with many joyful encounters and that 2009 will present many opportunities for you to be a blessing for others.

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