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Terry Gross, host of the public radio show “Fresh Air,” will be the first speaker in a four-part women’s series sponsored by Sinai Samaritan Medical Center and the Jewish Community Center of Milwaukee. She is scheduled to speak from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 29, at Congregation Shalom, 7630 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Fox Point. Tickets are $18 in advance or $20 at the door. The fee for the four-part series is $36.

“Fresh Air,” produced at WHYY in Philadelphia, is a daily, one-hour program distributed to 190 stations nationwide and heard by 2 million listeners a week. The show features in-depth interviews with prominent cultural and entertainment figures, as well as distinguished experts on current affairs and news.

Legions of fans regard Gross as one of the best interviewers in the country, right up there with icons like Ted Koppel and Bill Moyers.

“If you want to understand a political conflict, it helps to understand the culture in which that conflict is taking place,” Gross says. “When there is a crisis in a foreign country, we sometimes call up that country’s leading novelist or filmmaker to get that cultural perspective.”

“I try to show the connections between the person’s work and their life that lead to that work,” Gross says of her cultural interviews. Her trademark is meticulous research that lets her link ideas and experience in ways that help her guests relax.

Gross will take those attending her talk behind the scenes of the radio show, talk about her interview techniques and offer insights on some of her more interesting guests.

Other speakers in the series will include Ellen Frankel, author of “The Five Books of Miriam,” on Feb. 25; Dr. Jean Slane, medical director of St. Luke’s Medical Center’s WiseLives, on March 18; and Liza Wiemer, author of “Extraordinary Guidance,” on April 22.

For information or to order tickets, call Susan Roth at the Jewish Community Center, (414) 967-8216.
St. Luke’s recognized for tissue recovery

The Wisconsin Tissue Bank, a department of St. Luke’s Medical Center, has been recognized by the Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation (MTF) for its significant role in MTF’s 10,000th tissue recovery. MTF, the largest tissue bank in the world, has facilitated the transplantation of more than 500,000 bone, tendon and ligament allografts, enhancing the mobility and lives of thousands of people around the world. Two St. Luke’s physicians, Alfred Tector, MD, a cardiothoracic surgeon best known for his work in heart transplantation, and Donald Hackbarth, MD, an orthopaedic surgeon, are involved with the program. Dr. Tector is medical director of the transplant program that includes the recovery services of the Wisconsin Tissue Bank, and Dr. Hackbarth is a member of the MTF board of directors and frequently uses tissue grafts in his surgical procedures.

VNA nurses and patients welcome special visitors

The Visiting Nurse Association of Wisconsin marked National Home Care Month in November by inviting state and federal legislators to take a first-hand look at home care. US Rep. Tom Barrett, State Sen. Richard Grobschmidt and State Rep. Peter Bock, each representing various areas in Milwaukee County, spent time with VNA nurses to learn how health care is delivered on a home visit.

State and federal legislators make crucial decisions relating to health care funding and regulation.

The VNA provides skilled nursing, hospice and home medical services.
St. Luke's South Shore Big Storm Awards for Service Excellence were presented by Lee Jaeger, administrator, to five employees who exceeded the expectations of their patients, patients' families or other customers at South Shore. The awards were presented in December to Glenda Daily, 3 MESG; Rita Goshaw, EKG; Linda Hintze, admitting; Pamela Methfessel, admitting; and Carol Smith, behavioral health.

Pamela Methfessel, admitting, nominated by Mary Barnes, RN, is the randomly selected service provider of the month. Pamela and Linda Hintze were cited for their resourceful intervention when a caller to the SLSS switchboard threatened suicide. They were able to get the caller's name and address and summon help to the caller's home.

The 1997 Service Provider of the Year, selected randomly, is Debbie Gale, radiology. Cheryl Bauer, loss prevention, also was recognized as the 1996 Service Provider of the Year. Cheryl was chosen for this award because it was her exceptional service to a patient and his wife, during a big snow storm that inspired the name of SLSS's service awards.

To nominate a St. Luke's South Shore employee, volunteer or physician for exceptional service, obtain a nomination form from a department, human resources or administration. Describe what the person did to warrant this recognition, and send the completed form to Jane Wagner, SLSS administration.

St. Luke's Medical Center Golden Sneaker Awards were presented in December to 12 employees who exceeded the expectations of their patients, patients' families, co-workers and other customers. Recognized were Michelle Baxter, float pool; Scott Becker, CICU; Dennice Bond-Montgomery, 4LM; Sandy Pelczynski, 4LM; Christine Casper, Wiselives Family Practice; Jo Dustrude, nursing services; Janet Murphy, volunteer services; Ernestine Matlock, 7GHJK; Carol Meyer, environmental services; Terry Milbert, rehabilitation; Ann Sanders, rehabilitation; and Mary Spooner, 4LM.

Carol Meyer, nominated by employees of personnel services, is the randomly selected Golden Sneaker Service Provider for December. The nomination acknowledged Carol's work in preparing name pins for new employee orientation. If there's a mistake or an employee has a special request, Carol is quick to accommodate new employees. The name pins are an important part of the orientation. Many employees comment that they feel "official" once they've received their pin.

The randomly selected 1997 Service Provider of the Year is Joyce Tomasetti, concierge, loss prevention, who was nominated by Aralee Scardina. Joyce was recognized for keeping the main entrance safe for customers when the under-sidewalk heating system failed during an all-day snowfall. Aralee says, "Joyce was outside most of the day, warning [customers] of the slippery floor and accompanying them through the door. She did all of this with a big smile on her face and a friendly, helpful attitude toward everyone.

United Way campaign raises nearly $150,000

The United Way campaign held last fall at Aurora's facilities in the Metro Region raised nearly $150,000, according to Jean Jacobs, manager-volunteer services at St. Luke's Medical Center, who spearheaded the project. Among the most committed United Way donors are employees at Aurora's United Way recipient agencies, Family Service of Milwaukee and Village Adult Day Services and the Visiting Nurse Association of Wisconsin, where contributions per person averaged more than $142, or about $5.50 a pay period.

(See story on page 4 for details about the successful first-time campaign held at Aurora Health Center in Racine.)
A strong theme at the Aurora Health Center in Racine has been community involvement. Included here are just a few of the projects that captured employee participation in 1997.

United Way

This fall, the Aurora Health Center in Racine held its first United Way campaign, chaired by Amir Barsoum, medical technologist, and Joan Kolpek, administrator. They raised $2,834 and had 75% participation from their 47 full-time employees and two part-time employees. Joan and Amir credit the successful campaign to good planning: “We had a lunch for employees, a real treat in a building without food service, at which we had a speaker from a United Way recipient agency, the Women’s Resource Center. The doctors participated and their spouses donated prizes for a drawing. Everyone got a free United Way calendar at the lunch,” says Amir.

National Make a Difference Day

When Racine Mayor Jim Smith challenged local businesses to “make a difference,” Aurora Health Center employees and doctors couldn’t resist. They collected six boxes of personal items and clothing for the Racine Women’s Resource Center and delivered them, along with balloons and flowers.

Flu Shot Clinic and Sports Physicals

Flu shots were provided to 225 people at six after-work and Saturday sessions at the center, and at three local businesses this fall, and 150 student athletes received convenient sports physicals at three evening sessions last summer.

Open House Benefits Community Stadium and Project Emergency

At an open house this summer, the center held a football throw to help raise money for the new Community Stadium at Case High School, which is across the street from the center, and collected canned food for Racine’s Project Emergency.

Community Education

The center’s physicians are committed to providing educational programs for the Racine community. The topics they presented this summer and fall have included “What to Expect When You’re Expecting,” “Here Comes Baby,” “Diabetes Control,” “School and Sports Injuries” and “Weight Control and Cholesterol.” Pediatrician Fernando Rustia, MD, recently took his message on “Cholesterol and Hypertension” to students at Starbuck Junior High School. He reported that the students were attentive and asked good questions.

Aurora Health Center is located at 8348 Washington Ave., Racine, 53406. The telephone number is (414) 884-4000, or use the tie-line, 84 and 4000 or the specific extension.
Outpatient pharmacy moves

The retail pharmacy that was located in the St. Luke's Family Practice Center has moved to the new St. Luke's Physician Office Building. It's part of Aurora Pharmacy Inc. and serves the general public as well as Aurora patients and employees. Its hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Heart disease and stroke kill 10,000 Wisconsin women a year. The question isn't whether women are likely to develop heart disease or suffer a stroke, but when — about 10 years after men do. For information about heart disease and stroke, call The Karen Yontz Women's Cardiac Awareness Center, (414) 649-5767, or the Karen Yontz Heartline, (800) 788-8380.

Physician Volunteer Opportunity

The Madison Street Outreach Clinic is a free clinic serving the uninsured and indigent of Milwaukee's near south side. Located at 931 W. Madison St. (one block north of Greenfield Ave.), the clinic provides access to care for a primarily Latino population Monday through Thursday afternoons. It is staffed by a family nurse practitioner salaried through St. Luke's Medical Center as well as volunteers and learners. If you are interested in sharing your time and skills with those who have nowhere else to turn, please contact Esmerelda, (414) 672-6679.

Donate Blood at Hartford Memorial Hospital!

2-6 p.m., First Tuesday of every month
Call (414) 670-6199 or 800-243-5124 for an appointment.

Eat Right, Be Light Weight Loss Program

6-7 p.m.
Wednesdays, Feb. 25-April 29
Cardiopulmonary Class Room
St. Luke's Medical Center
Call St. Luke's nutrition services at (414) 649-6757
for information or to register.
The fee is $100 for the class, plus $69 for individual diet instruction, which is required before the first class meeting.
February 1998 Nursing Education Classes at Aurora Conference Center

The classes listed here are free to Aurora employees unless a fee is indicated in the course or class description. Courses or classes may be canceled if the minimum registrations are not received.

Pre-registration is required for every class and course in February. For information or to register, call nursing education, (414) 647-6370, or fax the registration to nursing education at (414) 647-4878.

Feb. 3  Advanced electrophysiology, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Aurora Conference Center.
Feb. 4  IABP class begins, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Aurora Conference Center. Limited enrollment and pre-reading is required, so register early.
Feb. 9  Basic fetal monitoring, 7:30-4 p.m., Aurora Conference Center.
Feb. 10 Understanding rate responsive pacer concepts and single chamber pacer malfunctions, 8 a.m.-12 noon, Aurora Conference Center.
Feb. 10  Concepts in psychosocial nursing, (Content geared to the advanced beginner), 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Aurora Conference Center.
Feb. 11  Basic ECG course begins, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Aurora Conference Center.
Feb. 12  Care of the intrapartum mom, 7:30-4 p.m., Aurora Conference Center.
Feb. 16  Critical care module - hemodynamic monitoring, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Aurora Conference Center.
Feb. 17  Critical care module - cardiovascular, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Aurora Conference Center.
Feb. 24  Care of the newborn with difficulties, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Aurora Conference Center.
Feb. 25  Basic physical assessment review, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Aurora Conference Center. Bring stethoscope and wear comfortable clothes.
Feb. 26  Mom/baby topics, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Aurora Conference Center.