



NEWS FROM
THE EYE-BANK
FOR SIGHT
RESTORATION, INC.

WINTER 2021

eye to eye

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...of Interest

In Memoriam: James Fabian, Esq.



THE EYE-BANK MOURNS THE LOSS OF JAMES FABIAN, ESQ., PRESIDENT, who passed away on August 16, 2020 after serving our organization for more than 18 years, providing much dedicated service and expertise to our sight-restoring mission.

He was first elected to The Eye-Bank's Board of Directors in 2002 and brought broad-based experience to the Board that stemmed from his distinguished legal career, which included being a partner and the Health Services Practice Group Leader at Nixon Peabody LLP in New York City and, prior to that, Vice President and Deputy Counsel of New York Hospital.

He generously contributed his expertise toward guiding and supporting The Eye-Bank, first as a Director, then Secretary (2005-2009), Vice President (2009-2015) and for five years as our highly-regarded President. His counsel

and leadership have been instrumental, if not key, to our sustained success, and his influence in strategic planning sessions helped initiate The Eye-Bank's innovative retinal pigment epithelial (RPE) cell research project.

Mr. Fabian also strongly supported The Eye-Bank's many fundraising efforts and was the driving force in establishing the annual *Swing for Sight* golf outing which was held from 2010 to 2016 and benefited The Eye-Bank's public and professional education programs. During his tenure on the Board, his work helped The Eye-Bank provide the beautiful gift of sight to more than 20,000 New Yorkers. 👁

STEM Scholarship in Memory of James Fabian

In memory of Mr. Fabian and to honor his contributions to our sight restoring mission, The Eye-Bank, together with the Fabian family, is pleased to announce the offering of an annual STEM Scholarship in the amount of \$3,000. The scholarship will commemorate his enduring legacy and will help a qualified student pursue higher education in Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics – fields that Mr. Fabian considered essential to the advancement and benefit of today's society. The scholarship criteria and application form are available at www.eyedonation/scholarship/STEM. Applicants may contact Marilyn Oliver, at moliver@ebsr.org or (212) 742-9000, for more information in advance of the May 15 scholarship deadline. 👁



New President and Vice-President Elected to the Board

THE EYE-BANK'S BOARD comprises professionals from diverse fields who offer their expertise and experience in helping the organization fulfill our mission of sight restoration. At the October 8, 2020 meeting, The Eye-Bank's Board of Directors elected **Leo J. Corbett** as President, the office which became vacant upon the passing of former President **James Fabian, Esq.** Mr. Corbett had been serving as the Board's Vice-President. Board Member Dennis R. Tarzian was elected to the position of Vice-President.

Mr. Corbett was first elected to the Board in 2014 and is currently Managing Partner at Zephyr Internet Partners. He has served as the COO of EMI Music Publishing and EMI Recorded Music and has extensive experience in the financial arena having worked with Prudential, Lehman Brothers and Salomon Brothers. Mr. Corbett has served in the U.S. government's Congressional Budget



(continued on page 4) Leo J. Corbett

Foresight 2020



Top Row: Michelle K. Rhee, M.D. (The Eye-Bank's Medical Director); Stefano Ferrari, M.D. (Venice Eye Bank Foundation); Gilles Thuret, M.D., Ph.D. (University Hospital of Saint-Etienne) & Carina Koppen, M.D., Ph.D. (Antwerp University Hospital); **Second Row:** May Griffith, Ph.D. (University of Montreal); Mor Dickman, M.D., Ph.D. (Maastricht University); Shukti Chakravarti, Ph.D. (NYU Langone Health) & Silvia Finemann, Ph.D. (Fordham University); **Bottom Row:** Patricia Dahl (The Eye-Bank's Executive Director) & Diego Ponzin, M.D. (Venice Eye Bank Foundation's Medical Director).

ON OCTOBER 3, The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration and the Venice Eye Bank Foundation collaborated to present **Foresight 2020**, an international virtual scientific workshop.

Attendees from around the world, numbering 140, joined in to hear researchers share their knowledge and various perspectives about eye banking at large and the possibilities and future opportunities that may be embraced in the treatment of corneal and retinal diseases.

The Eye-Bank's Medical Director Michelle K. Rhee, M.D. and Venice Eye Bank Foundation Stefano Ferrari, M.D. were moderators for the eight panelists who each shared seven-minute presentations followed by a Q&A session. A special thank you goes to Community Development Specialist Benjamin Baros for his efforts in coordinating the zoom event.

The Eye-Bank was pleased to co-host this first-of-its-kind virtual seminar along with the Venice Eye Bank Foundation and looks forward to future events of this nature. 

New Video Commemorates our 75th Anniversary

IN CELEBRATION OF OUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY of giving the gift of sight, The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration produced a commemorative seven-minute video which gives an overview of our early history, noteworthy accomplishments and where we stand today – a leader in the field of eye banking.

The video pays tribute to the indomitable spirit of our visionary founder, R. Townley Paton, M.D. and Eye-Bank Executive Director Aida Breckenridge, fundraiser extraordinaire and the many supporters who helped set the course and navigate the organization through the uncharted territory of the pioneering field of eye banking.

We pay homage to the many who helped advance The Eye-Bank's mission including celebrities: Henry Fonda, Mandy Patinkin, Vanessa and Chris Williams, Angela Lansbury, Betty Comden and Adolph Green, and Jerry Orbach to name a few; and dignitaries including Eleanor Roosevelt, Ronald and Nancy Reagan and NYC Mayor Edward Koch who in 1981 proclaimed March as Eye Donor Month.

Viewers also get a glimpse into our public awareness efforts which have been pivotal to our work since the early days of our founding. The video highlights our trailblazing spirit and adoption of new technologies and techniques with regard to corneal tissue preparation. Also shown is our RPE Project established to provide researchers with adult human retina pigment epithelial (RPE) cell lines to assist

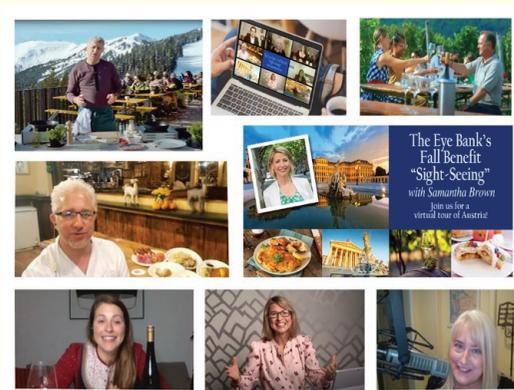


them in their search for treatments and cures for diseases of the retina.

We are proud to be the first eye bank and transplant agency in the world and also feel a sense of satisfaction that our founding resulted in the proliferation of eye banks across the country and around the world.

We hope you enjoy viewing The Eye-Bank's 75th Anniversary Video at www.eyedonation.org/news-and-events. 

Fall Benefit Supporters Took a "Sight-Seeing" Tour of Austria



AS PART OF OUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, The Eye-Bank hosted our first-ever virtual Fall Benefit "Sight-Seeing" with Samantha Brown on October 1, when we explored the stunning sights and unique

flavors of Austria from the comfort and safety of our homes.

Our host for the evening, Emmy-Award winning travel expert and TV personality Samantha Brown from PBS's *Places to Love*, took attendees on a virtual tour of Austria's rapturous culture. Distinguished sommelier Robin Pohlman appeared live from Austria and guided guests through a tasting of two delectable Austrian wines. The evening was capped off by Emmy-Award winning chef Erwin Schröttner, owner of Café Katya, Manhattan's popular restaurant featuring a menu of Austrian specialties, who taught attendees how to make *Jagerschnitzel*, a traditional Austrian dish, and demonstrated how to properly pour a stein of beer.

Throughout the event guests had the opportunity to hear from 3 grateful individuals who have had their sight restored thanks to The Eye-Bank and our emcee for the evening, popular WCBS Newsradio 880 host Pat Farnack, encouraged viewers to support The Eye-Bank with a financial contribution directly from their mobile devices. We are pleased to report that the event raised more than \$46,000 to date in support of The Eye-Bank's programs!

Special thanks to all of our presenters and to our Co-Chairs of the event, Alexandra Herzlich, M.D. from our Medical Advisory Board and Dennis Tarzian from our Board of Directors. Did you miss the fun? Visit our website at www.eyedonation.org/news-and-events to view the event. 

Eye Donor's Daughter Becomes an Eye Banker

By Marilyn Kim Oliver

IN 2019 WHEN BROOKLYN RESIDENT RENEE DACRUZ began to seek new career opportunities, she came upon an ad for a position at The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration. Coincidentally, this was not the first time she had come in contact with the non-profit organization. She recalled that it was The Eye-Bank that had reached out to her previously asking her to consider eye donation when her father passed away a few months earlier in October 2018.

As Renee considered the job posting, she reminisced about her father, Dudley Douglas Cox, whose primary goal was to provide for his family whom he deeply loved. He was born and grew up in the Caribbean island of Grenada and was gifted with his hands – he could repair practically anything. It was this ability that inspired him to attend trade school and become a highly-skilled handyman who was always in demand. While still living in Grenada, he also became an avid golfer, starting first as a caddie and excelling in the sport until eventually becoming an instructor.

In his late twenties, Renee's father immigrated to the United States where he met his lifelong companion, Ramona DaCruz, who gave birth to their two children Dudley, Jr. and Renee. The family thrived as her father did everything possible to ensure his family's well-being. He became a superintendent for several buildings in Brooklyn, while continuing to expand his repair business which ranged from electrical work to carpentry. He was a determined man and problem solver who often assumed the most difficult projects and successfully completed them. His biggest goal was to own his own home for his family and he worked diligently toward achieving this.



Renee and her pooch Teddy are snugly dressed to brave the winter temperatures.

Renee fondly recalls how her father would pick up both she and her brother after school and take them with him to his various repair jobs. She admits that as a result of witnessing him doing so much of his work, she learned to become fairly skilled with handiwork herself.



Renee celebrates her college graduation with her Mom and Dad.

Now celebrating her second work anniversary at The Eye-Bank, Renee thinks about the part her father played as an eye donor and how that has led to her present position and career track and she believes it was fate.

Renee also remembers him as an excellent cook, a pastime which he enjoyed tremendously, blending traditional American cuisine with that of his Caribbean heritage and during the holidays, he would prepare feasts that incorporated the two cultures with his Thanksgiving turkey being seasoned with Caribbean spices – all his food uniquely delicious!

After her father died, Renee received a call from The Eye-Bank asking her to consider eye donation. Together, she and her brother considered that their Mom, who had died a year earlier, had suffered with glaucoma during her lifetime and they consented to their father's eye donation in the hope that someone would receive sight or that the donation would help advance medical education or research into the treatment and cures of eye diseases.

Renee decided to apply for the position at The Eye-Bank and after a successful interview, began work in January 2019 as the Development and Administrative Coordinator. In her new position, she assists in the coordination of various fundraising and other special events as well as recruits and arranges the onboarding of Leadership Council members. She has also gained a broader understanding of the crucial role The Eye-Bank had played when her father passed away by offering her family an opportunity to consider donation.

Now celebrating her second work anniversary at The Eye-Bank, Renee thinks about the part her father played as an eye donor and how that has led to her present position and career track and she believes it was fate. She was pleased to receive the New York State Donate Life Medal that The Eye-Bank gives to donor families in honor of their loved one's gift and as an Eye-Bank employee she is eager to help advance our mission of sight restoration. She often thinks of her father as she regularly encourages others to consider donation and to sign-up in the New York State Donate Life Registry in order to someday give the gift of sight and life.

The Eye-Bank thanks Renee for sharing her story and invites New Yorkers to sign-up in the New York State Donate Life Registry at www.eyedonation.org and click on the "Donate Life" logo.

You can be "Generous," "Thoughtful" and "Amazing" by using your mobile device, laptop or computer to sign-up in the Registry. It only takes a minute! 

Board Elects New Officers

(continued from page 1)

Office, as Chief of Staff at the Department of Health Education and Welfare and as the Associate Commissioner of the Social Security Administration. Additionally, Mr. Corbett has experience in local, congressional, gubernatorial and presidential campaign management. He is a past member of the Alumni Board of Harvard Business School and is a marathon runner (New York and Boston). Mr. Corbett received his BA from Harvard University and his MBA from Harvard Business School.

Elected to the Board in June, 2018, **Dennis R. Tarzian** is a Managing Partner and Member of the Board of Directors at BCHT Holdings LLC, a privately held investment group. Prior to joining BCHT Holdings LLC, Mr. Tarzian was Co-founder, Chief Operating Officer and Managing

Partner at National Registered Agents Inc., a legal services and technology firm. Previously, he was President and Chief Executive Officer for New Century Education, a privately held provider of instructional technology and computer-based training products. Mr. Tarzian received his MBA from Columbia University's Graduate School of Business and his BS in Systems Engineering and Computer Science from the Polytechnic Institute of New York University. He is a Member of the Board of Directors for the Karagheusian Foundation and is both a Member and Treasurer for the Fund for Armenian Relief. 



Dennis R. Tarzian

Eye-Bank Appoints Two Associate Medical Directors

JOANN J. KANG, M.D AND MAAYAN KESHET, M.D. have been named Associate Medical Directors of The Eye-Bank. In these positions, they will assist The Eye-Bank's Medical Director, Michelle K. Rhee, M.D., by annually observing the technical trainers' skills as well as providing continuing education lectures for lab staff.

Both Dr. Kang and Dr. Keshet are ophthalmologists specializing in corneal surgery and are familiar with eye banking practices having served on The Eye-Bank's Medical Advisory Board for three and eight years respectively. In addition, they both have participated in the Eye Bank Association of America's (EBAA) Physician Leadership Program which is offered every two years to a select group of nominated physicians interested in expanding their knowledge of eye banking and the EBAA's medical standards for accreditation.



Joann Kang, M.D.

Dr. Kang currently serves as Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Attending Physician for Cornea and External Diseases at Montefiore Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City. She holds a medical degree from Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons and an undergraduate degree from Cornell University. Her internship was at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY, with residency training at the University of

Illinois, Chicago. She completed a fellowship at New York Eye and Ear Infirmary with a focus on Cornea and External Diseases. Dr. Kang is a member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology.



Maayan Keshet, M.D.

Dr. Keshet is an Ophthalmology Associate at the Fromer Eye Centers in New York City. Her undergraduate studies in Biology and French were at Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY, and she received her medical degree from Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston. She interned at Saint Vincent's Medical Center and completed her residency training at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Montefiore Medical Center in New York.

She returned to Tufts at the New England Eye Center Ophthalmic Consultants of Boston to complete a fellowship in Cornea and External Diseases. Dr. Keshet is a member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the American Society for Cataract and Refractive Surgery.

According to The Eye-Bank's Executive Director Patricia Dahl, The Eye-Bank will benefit greatly by having Drs. Kang and Keshet bring their level of expertise to the role of Associate Medical Director and we very much appreciate their commitment to eye banking. 

Eye Donors are Honored as Recipients Say "Thank You"

THE EYE-BANK CULMINATED OUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY WITH CELEBRATING YOU!, a special virtual event held on Sunday November 8 that honored cornea donors, highlighted cornea transplant recipients and shared information about The Eye-Bank.

Representing cornea donors and their families whose generosity has made our mission of sight restoration possible was Ileana Quinones who shared the story of her father being a donor and Helen Fuentes who paid tribute to her brother by sharing his eye donation story. A fitting and touching memoriam montage featuring a large number of eye donors was played to music to represent the countless number of donors who have helped others by leaving the gift of sight.

The afternoon program also premiered The Eye-Bank's 75th anniversary video offering a fast-paced historical perspective of the world's first eye bank from our founding in 1944 to the present day. Eye-Bank Executive Director, Patricia Dahl, shared pertinent information about the organization, charting the course from our inception as the world's first



eye bank to how our eye bank has expanded and continues to cure blindness today by providing safe, quality donor tissue for both transplantation and research.

Leela Raju, MD, Chair of The Eye-Bank's Medical Advisory Board discussed innovations in cornea transplant procedures. She referenced various corneal diseases and how new techniques and technologies

(continued on page 7)

The Eye-Bank for Sight and Restoration, Inc. Financial Report 2019

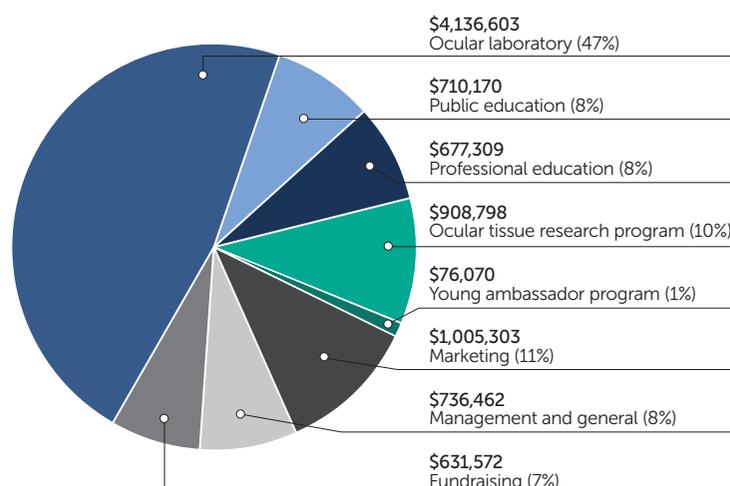
Statements of Financial Position

	December 31st	2019	2018
Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	285,914	552,594
Accounts receivable, net		1,332,866	1,267,509
Accrued interest receivable		110,440	107,957
Pledges and bequests receivable		253,580	3,880
Prepaid expenses and other assets		175,229	122,284
Property and equipment, net		1,356,056	1,532,412
Investments, at fair value		63,036,838	52,310,586
Beneficial interest in charitable trusts		4,197,783	3,586,243
Total assets	\$	70,748,706	59,483,465
Liabilities			
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$	242,520	389,545
Deferred rent payable		422,716	446,115
Due to organization		21,250	133,248
Total liabilities	\$	686,486	968,908
Net assets			
Without donor restrictions	\$	65,760,337	54,824,214
With donor restrictions	\$	4,301,883	3,690,343
Total net assets	\$	70,062,220	58,514,557
Total liabilities and net assets	\$	70,748,706	59,483,465

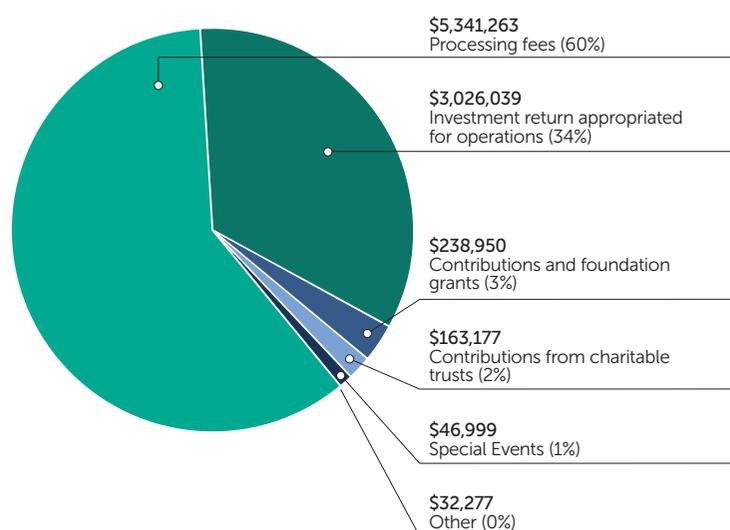
Statements of Activities

	Year Ended December 31st	2019	2018
Public support			
Contributions and foundation grants	\$	238,950	231,126
Contributions from charitable trusts		163,177	181,918
Special events		46,999	57,733
Total public support		449,126	470,777
Operating revenue			
Processing fees		5,341,263	5,795,275
Investment return appropriated for operations		3,026,039	2,387,406
Other		32,277	9,987
Total operating revenue	\$	8,399,579	8,192,668
Total public support and operating revenue	\$	8,848,705	8,663,445
Expenses			
Program services			
Ocular laboratory	\$	4,136,603	4,429,311
Public education		710,170	642,518
Professional education		677,309	573,450
Ocular tissue research program		908,798	760,644
Young ambassador program		76,070	67,858
Marketing		1,005,303	934,327
Total program services	\$	7,514,253	7,408,108
Supporting services			
Management and general	\$	736,462	566,280
Fundraising		631,572	542,733
Total supporting services	\$	1,368,034	1,109,013
Total expenses	\$	8,882,287	8,517,121
Excess of operating revenue over expenses	\$	(33,582)	146,324
Non-operating revenue			
Contributions from legacies and bequests	\$	794,657	826,580
Change in value of beneficial interest in charitable trusts, net		611,540	(462,015)
Investment return designated for long-term investment		10,175,048	(1,491,937)
Total non-operating revenue		11,581,245	(1,127,372)
Change in net assets	\$	11,547,663	(981,048)

2019 Operating Expenses \$8,882,287



2019 Public Support and Operating Revenue \$8,848,705



This data has been extracted from our financial statements which were audited by Condon O'Meara McGinty & Donnelly LLP, One Battery Park Plaza, New York, NY 10004-1405.

CAPITAL TRANSACTIONS

The Eye-Bank, in association with outside, independent counsel, has its investment portfolio under continuous review. The review's purpose is to improve dividend and interest income with securities, which, in the carefully considered opinions of all concerned, are of sound value. With these objectives in mind, changes in holdings are made from time to time.

A copy of the Annual Report BSW-497 can be obtained on request from the Attorney General's Office, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271 or from The Eye-Bank.

The first eye bank in the world, The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration was established in 1944 and incorporated under the laws of the State of New York. It is a voluntary, charitable organization devoted to the collection, processing and distribution of donor eye tissue for transplantation, research and medical education.

The Eye-Bank office and laboratory are located at 120 Wall Street, New York, NY 10005. Telephone (24 hours): (212) 742-9000, Fax: (212) 269-3139. Email: info@ebsr.org, Internet address: www.eyedonation.org.

2019 Members of the Board of Directors and Medical Advisory Board

Officers and Board Members as of December 31: Mel M. Immergut, Honorary Director; David Paton, M.D., Honorary Director; James Fabian, Esq., President; Leo J. Corbett, Vice-President; Rachel A. Heisler, Secretary; Umber Ahmad, Treasurer; Joseph J. D'Ambrosio, CFA; Giovanni F. DiCenso; Paul Kayaian; Joan L. Larson; Jeanne McCooey; Richard A. Mittenthal; Andrea Nordquist; Daryl Paxson; Dennis R. Tarzian; Elizabeth Wruszek; Michael Zambrelli.

Medical Advisory Board: George J. Florakis, M.D., Chair; Leela V. Raju, M.D., Secretary; Priti Batta, M.D.; Jessica B. Ciralsky, M.D.; Robert Cykiert, M.D.; Beverly A. Forsyth, M.D.; Himani Goyal, M.D.; David H. Haight, M.D.; Alexandra Herzlich, M.D.; Joann J. Kang, M.D.; John J. Kim, M.D.; Edward C. Lai, M.D.; Douglas R. Lazzaro, M.D.; Sid Mandelbaum, MD.; Richard D. Najac, M.D.; David C. Ritterband, M.D.; Kimberly C. Sippel, M.D.; Laurence T.D. Sperber, M.D.; Danielle Trief, M.D.; Angie En Wen, M.D.; Jules Winokur, M.D.; Gerald W. Zaidman, M.D.

Patricia Dahl, Executive Director/CEO; Michelle K. Rhee, M.D., Medical Director

This and the 2019 President's Report are available at eyebank.org/financial-reports or upon request at (212) 742-9000.

MVP People Who Help Make a Difference

THE EYE-BANK RECOGNIZES Mount Sinai Hospital System Department of Nursing Education and Professional Development and applauds Clinical Program Manager Josiane Hickson Ed.D., RN, NE-BC and her colleagues for their commitment to excellence in education.

Dr. Hickson and her team have consistently facilitated effective and substantive presentations about eye donation and the eye donor referral process at new nurse orientations via Zoom throughout this challenging year.

During the COVID-19 pandemic and its challenges of remote education, Mount Sinai's nurse educators have welcomed Eye-Bank liaisons and communications staff with enthusiasm and set the tone for interesting and engaging programs and question-and-answer sessions. The support that The Eye-Bank receives at nurse orientations strongly contributes to a positive culture of donation throughout Mount Sinai's multiple hospital locations in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens.

In 2020, nurses within the System supported eye donations resulting in more than 45 individuals receiving sight-restoring cornea transplants and helping countless others through medical research and education.



We thank Dr. Hickson and her staff for being Eye-Bank MVPs and we look forward to our continued collaboration as we work together to give the gift of sight. ▶

2020 Young Ambassador Scholarship Award Winner – Madeleine Olivia Butchko



THIS PAST FALL, The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration's 2020 Young Ambassador Scholarship in the amount of \$3,000 was awarded to Madeleine Olivia Butchko.

As a senior at Warwick Valley High School in Orange County, Madeleine created awareness about the importance of eye, organ and tissue donation and posted information about the New York State Donate Life Registry on social media, including sign-up links on Instagram, Snapchat and Facebook which were shared by many. She also conducted community

outreach efforts by distributing flyers to Warwick EMS where she was a volunteer, to students at her high school and also at her optician's office.

The Eye-Bank's Young Ambassador Scholarship is awarded to a qualifying applicant under the age of 25 who is entering or currently enrolled in college, and has conducted efforts to increase public awareness of eye, organ and tissue donation. This year's winner was drawn to the scholarship because of challenges with her own eyesight which enabled her to identify with others who experienced the same. According to Madeleine, she felt touched by the story of Christopher Nordquist in whose memory the scholarship is founded. He died

at the age of two and gave the gift of sight to two people as an eye donor.

Currently a freshman at Providence College in Rhode Island, Madeleine says she is grateful to have had the opportunity to learn about and share information about the good donation can do.

We wish Madeleine the very best and take the opportunity to thank the Board's Scholarship Committee, Andrea Nordquist (Chair), Paul Kayaian and Jeanne McCooley for their time and efforts.

For more information about The Eye-Bank's Young Ambassador Scholarship, please visit www.eyedonation.org/scholarship. ▶

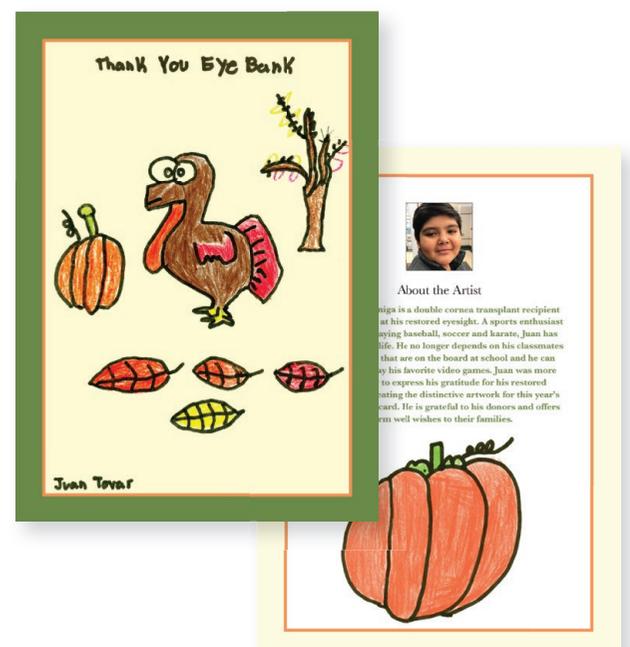
Young Recipient Shows Gratitude Through Art

EACH YEAR, The Eye-Bank seeks the creative artistry of a young cornea transplant recipient to help create our Thanksgiving card as part of our Young Ambassador Program. This year for our 2020 greeting, we were pleased to feature the original artwork of Juan Tovar Zuniga, a twelve-year-old, double cornea transplant recipient.

Juan, who is amazed at his restored eyesight, is a sports enthusiast who enjoys karate and playing baseball and soccer, and since his cornea transplants he has had a new lease on life. He no longer depends on his classmates to read notes that are on the board at school and he can now see to catch pop flies and play his favorite video games.

Juan embraced the opportunity to express his gratitude for his restored eyesight to his donor families and his surgeon, Dr. Gerald Zaidman, by creating the special artwork for our Thanksgiving card which is sent to our many Eye-Bank supporters, colleagues and friends. As an Eye-Bank Young Ambassador, he has also shared his cornea transplant story in a testimonial video that can be seen on The Eye-Bank's website at www.eyedonation.org/videos.

As we celebrate 75 years of giving the gift of sight, we thank Juan for sharing his talents and transplant story and for taking part in our mission of sight restoration. ▶



Eye Donation Month Celebrated



THE EYE-BANK FOR SIGHT RESTORATION joined the Eye Bank Association of America in observing Eye Donation Month this past November as a time to celebrate the gift of sight made possible through eye donation and sight-saving cornea transplantation.

The COVID-19 pandemic restricted in-person outreach programs and as a consequence, The Eye-Bank focused on digital and social media campaigns. The Eye-Bank's Hospital and Community Liaisons and Communications Department staff worked collaboratively on creating and providing both English and Spanish-language public educational materials, including digital creative for hospital systems within our service area to share via their social media, as well as screensavers to run on hospital computers and monitors.

In addition, The Eye-Bank incorporated Eye Donation Month into our multimedia ad campaign, encouraging New Yorkers to sign up in the NYS Donate Life Registry. These ads ran on digital and social media in the *New York Daily News* and on *WCBS* radio as public service announcements.

The Eye-Bank thanks our hospital partners who promoted Eye Donation Month and helped us to raise public awareness of the need for eye donation and the good that it can do. 👁️



Honor/Memorial Gifts

from July 14, 2020 – January 31, 2021

Memorial and honor gifts are given to recognize loved ones or to mark a special occasion. To make a gift in honor or memory of someone, please use the enclosed envelope, visit www.eyedonation.org/give or contact the Eye-Bank's Development Department at 212-742-9000.

IN MEMORY OF...

Anne Achtziger
Tillie M. Ambrosino
Adly Ayoub
Michael T. Betjemann
Grace Blandino
Mary Burns
Florence H. Cafran
(nee Peculis)
Theophilus Cargill
Marie E. Carlucci
Michael Cherkezian
Rayleen Cioff's friend Anthony
Cornea Donors

Cornea Recipients
Astrid Cortes-Castro
James Curtain
Celestino Delaurentis
Sylvia Detkin
Johanna Detschel
Sue Eckhoff
James Fabian
Anna Grunner
Kurt Hoerlein
Brian M. Jackel
Sam and Sophie Jacobson
Roberta T. Karet
Daniel F. Kelly

Dorothy Krusinski
Joni I. Lancos
Moshe Leibovitch
William Lesko, M.D.
Pearl Lisell
Peter H. Long
Madelyn Markson
Rosemarie E. Mattern
Grace Mayer
John McNulty
Nicholas S. Meli
Reuben Mick
Mary Jane O'Neill
Jennie Orapesa
Laura Palma
Michael Parker
R. Townley Paton, M.D.
Ralph W. Peters
Mary Pohmer
Audrey C. Raynor
Lita Riddick's cornea donor
James A. Rinklin
Gloria Rodriguez

Sol Ruskin
Joan Ruth
Patricia Ruth
Charles F. Soutar
Gayle Stein's cornea donor
Ella Stocknoff
Maksym Sugarovskiy
Maria and Peter Tortorici
Richard C. Troutman, M.D.
Charles S. Trovato
Robert S. Trump
Doris and William Weissler
Arthur H. Wolintz, M.D.

IN HONOR OF...

David R. Adler
Donald Bensinger
Stanley Chang, M.D.
Rayleen Cioffi's Parents
Cornea Transplant Surgeries
Joan and Eugene J. Daly
Robert A. D'Amico, M.D.
Bess Diener

Michael J. Feldman
George J. Florakis, M.D.
Himani Goyal, M.D.
Samuel Hauser
Suzanne Laraia
Jan A. Lewis
Sid Mandelbaum, M.D.
Roy Marshak
John and Cathy McManus
Joseph Panarelli, M.D.
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Southern Dames Association
Brian Sowerby
Dennis R. Tarzian
Arnold I. Turtz, M.D.
Tracey Whitley
John R. Wittpenn, M.D.

A Tribute is Paid to Cornea Donors

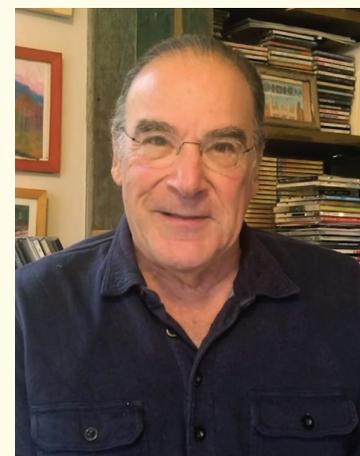
(continued from page 4)

have made cornea transplant surgeries more efficient and effective as well as being less invasive thereby significantly reducing recovery time for patients.

Award-winning stage, film and television actor Mandy Patinkin made a special guest appearance. The star of Showtime's popular TV series *Homeland*, who is also a cornea transplant recipient, shared his personal transplant story, expressing deep gratitude for his restored eyesight and his donors who made it possible.

Testimonial videos from teenage cornea transplant recipients, Gabby Miller and Juan Tovar Zuniga, demonstrated how each has had a much enhanced life because of their cornea transplants. Attendees were invited to volunteer with The Eye-Bank and the program was brought to a close with a very moving montage of cornea transplant recipients, an emotional reminder of how thankful recipients are to receive the beautiful gift of sight.

For those who were unable to join the *Celebrating You!* event, the 75th Anniversary Video and Mandy Patinkin's special greeting can be viewed at www.eyedonation.org/news-and-events. 👁️



Mandy Patinkin

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eye to eye is published by The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration, Inc., a non-profit organization located at 120 Wall Street, New York, NY 10005-3902. The Eye-Bank was founded in 1944 for the purpose of collecting and distributing corneal tissue for transplants, research and medical education. More than 69,000 people in the greater Metropolitan area have had their sight restored through the work of The Eye-Bank.

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EDWIN H. ROBERTS has been promoted to Associate Director responsible for overseeing the Ocular Laboratory and associated departments including Family Support

Services, Information Systems and Quality Assurance. In his new position, he will assist the Executive Director/CEO in ensuring the organization's objectives are met.

A long-time staff member of The Eye-Bank, Edwin joined the organization as a Laboratory Technician in 1999 and was promoted to Lab Supervisor and subsequently Laboratory Manager. He then advanced to the role of Operations Director from 2011 – 2018, followed by the most recent past position of Director of Quality Control and Information Technology Systems.

Credentialed as a certified eye bank technician (CEBT) Edwin has served on the Eye Bank Association's (EBAA) Quality Assurance

Committee and is currently a member of the EBAA's Medical Advisory Board. Edwin holds a BS in Biology from Long Island University Brooklyn Campus and a Master's degree in Public Administration from John Jay College (CUNY).



Having been with The Eye-Bank for 17 years, **HORTENSE KENDALL** has been promoted to Laboratory Director from the position of Laboratory Manager

and in her new position will oversee the operations and administration of the laboratory to ensure compliance with federal and state regulations and national standards.

She first joined The Eye-Bank in 2004 as a laboratory technician and two years later was promoted to transplant coordinator after passing the Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA) certification exam (CEBT). In this capacity she was responsible for signing

off on donor suitability. As advances in cornea transplant surgery occurred with the introduction of newly developed technologies, she became certified in the preparation of donor tissue for DSEK and later DMEK procedures in which partial-thickness corneal grafts are used. In 2017, Hortense was promoted to Laboratory Manager. Hortense graduated Magna Cum Laude from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania with a BA in Biology.



Congratulations to Eye-Bank Ocular Laboratory Technician **HANNAH FLAIG** who recently passed the Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA) Certified

Eye Bank Technician (CEBT) exam. The Eye-Bank's laboratory technicians are required to meet EBAA Medical Standards consistently while providing quality ocular tissue for transplant. Hannah joined The Eye-Bank in April 2019. 



Let others know about eye donation and how to enroll in the Donate Life Registry at facebook.com/eyebankny



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