

DIRECTLINE

Winter 2018

Festival of Trees & Winter Faire

Join us in ushering in the season with our second annual Festival of Trees and Winter Faire. The four-day event begins with a beautiful display of trees and ends with a holiday bazaar with lots of shopping, raffles, and more.

Visit the Trees

Enjoy the wonder of the season by stopping by to see a sparkling display of trees donated by UConn Health faculty, staff, students, and Auxiliary members. The trees will be on display from **Tuesday, December 4 through Thursday, December 6**, on the Mezzanine Level of the University Tower. Each beautifully decorated tree will go

home with a lucky winner in our Festival of Trees and Winter Faire drawing.

Shop Our Holiday Bazaar

Get all your holiday shopping done at our one-day bazaar on **Friday, December 7**, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Food Court, Main Building. The event will feature a variety of local crafters and artists offering unique holiday gift ideas, personalized ornaments, home décor, and more. While you're there, be sure to enter our fan favorite holiday basket drawing.

Donate a Tree or Basket

Support the event by decorating

and donating a tree or basket reflecting the season, a theme or interest. The key is to be imaginative! Best of all, every beautifully decorated tree and basket will go home with a lucky winner in our Festival of Trees and Winter Faire drawing. Winners will be announced on Friday, December 7, at 3 p.m.

Visit health.uconn.edu/auxiliary for tree decorating guidelines and to register your tree or holiday basket. Space is limited—register today!

Interested in helping out at the event? Contact Chris Kaminski at kaminski@uchc.edu.



Festival of Trees & Winter Faire

Festival of Trees, December 4-6
University Tower, Mezzanine, Main Level

Holiday Bazaar, December 7
Main Building, Food Court

health.uconn.edu/auxiliary

Irene Engel Ready to Try 'True' Retirement

Written By: Christopher DeFrancesco, Auxiliary Member

Irene's been a part of UConn Health for five decades, including the last 20 years in "retirement" as facilitator of the UConn Health Auxiliary. As she starts her next chapter, Irene reflects on her connection to UConn Health and the Auxiliary.

Even though it's been more than 20 years since she retired from UConn Health, Irene Engel never stopped working to make it a better place. She has been a fixture at UConn Health since before John Dempsey Hospital opened, first as a nurse at the old McCook Hospital in Hartford, then as a nursing administrator, then in various positions as part of the medical school administration, and then, in "retirement," working to rejuvenate the UConn Health Auxiliary.



Today, Irene's life as a retiree in the more traditional sense is underway. Earlier this year she stepped aside as Auxiliary facilitator and helped with the leadership transition, with Debbie Baril and Chris Kaminski now serving as co-facilitators.

The next chapter for Irene starts with her spending winters in Florida. But we couldn't let this snowbird fly without answering a few questions before she left!

How did a young nurse from New Hampshire end up at UConn?

After nursing school (Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, Lebanon, N.H.) I got a job in the ER at Hartford Hospital to be near Harry, who was my fiancé. He worked at Pratt and Whitney in East Hartford. I came to Connecticut in 1955, and lived in the old Hartford Hospital maternity ward. They rented out rooms to the employees. My whopping salary was \$232 a month, and I paid \$28 to live in the dorm. I was allowed to have a hot plate and an electric skillet, and we had common bathrooms.

I started in 1968 at McCook Hospital, part-time on the surgical floor, weekends only. I went to full-time in 1970 when David (our son) turned 5. I've been part of the Auxiliary since 1969 (its founding year). That's when we started the art collection.

Read more about Irene's career in UConn Health's newsletter, The Pulse.

The Irene Engel Fund for Professional Advancement in Nursing

In honor of Irene's dedicated service to UConn Health, both as an employee and in retirement as facilitator of the UConn Health Auxiliary, the UConn Foundation has established the Irene Engel Fund for Professional Advancement in Nursing. This fund is to benefit UConn Health nurses who would like to enhance their professional development through channels such as academic courses and conferences.

The Foundation is accepting checks (payable to The UConn Foundation, please specify it's for Irene's fund) at 10 Talcott Notch Road, Suite 100, Farmington, CT 06032.

Checks also can be dropped off at the Connucopia Gift Shop.

Auxiliary Board Members

Co-Facilitators:

Debbie Baril
Christine Kaminski

Members:

Connie Brown
Ellen Cartun
Swapna Das
Irene Engel (Emeritus)
Annarita Erwin
Margo Granger
Ann Lazarek
Cheryl Tuggle
Wendy Urciuoli
Mary Louise Wadsworth
Joan Williams

Contact Us

For more information about our events and programs, contact us at:

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