



# NEWSLETTER

Stan Smith – President/Editor (205)655-3151  
Judy Burch – Secretary

Stephen Foster – Vice President/Chaplain  
Lori Higginbotham - Treasurer

## SUPPORT GROUP MEETING FOR FEBRUARY 2018

This month's dinner/meeting will be at the Mellow Mushroom, 920 Inverness Corners, just off Highway 280 (close to Kohl's), on Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:45 PM. Please RSVP by 12 N on the 16<sup>th</sup> so I can make seating arrangements at the restaurant (a day ahead) – call and leave a message at 205-655-3151, or email to [heartlungkid1@gmail.com](mailto:heartlungkid1@gmail.com).



The new heart & lung transplant recipients  
No new release forms

### HAPPY HEART AND LUNG DAY!

(February)

(H) Maxine Westmoreland	'86
(H) Jimmy Wallis	'88
(H) Charlie Carter	'89
(H/K) Steve R. Carroll (H/K 8/07)	'92
(H) Glenn Keup	'93
(H) Richard J. Brand	'95
(H) Mary J. Davis	'96
(H) Douglas J. Weseli	'97
(H) Billy Campbell (1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> )	'97
(H) William R. Parrish	'97
(H) Clarice Powell	'98
(H) Willie M. Burks	'00
(L) Alice M. Marshall	'00
(H) Larry F. Merryman (2 <sup>nd</sup> 6/01)	'01
(H) Harvel Anthony Douglas	'03
(H) Leon M. Jackson, Jr.	'03
(H) George W. Geren	'05
(L) Larry E. Shaw	'05

(H) Twain Heaton	'06
(L) Franklin D. Hicks	'07
(H) Stephen Harrell	'09
(L) Gretchen S. Orr	'09
(L) Bennie L. Jernigan	'10
(L) John L. Denson	'11
(H) Curtis P. Gordon	'12
(H) Robert Boyer	'12
(H/K) Jeremiah Crapps (1 <sup>st</sup> 7/95)	'13
(H) MacKenzie Dively (Ped)	'13
(H/K) Austin Ledbetter (Ped)	'14



The new liver transplant recipients are:

No new release forms

### HAPPY LIVER DAY!

(February)

Megan Muzer	'94
Lenora Turner	'95
Jimmy Evans	'96
Donald Brady	'98
Clarence Salyers	'98
William Brannon	'00
John Pinion	'00

Nupur Kapoor	'01
Mark H. Whitt	'03
Fran Allred	'03
(LIV/K) Barb Rothman	'03
Emma Lamb	'06
Pamela B. Johnson	'06
Frank Ramey	'09
Phyllis Marchman	'09
Johnny L. Waites	'11
Jane Goddard	'12
Patricia Diane Ponder	'13
Neil Bruyn	'14
Glenda Atchley	'17



The new kidney transplant recipients are:

No new release forms

### HAPPY KIDNEY DAY!

(February)

Elizabeth McIlwain (2 <sup>nd</sup> 1/94)	'87
Jennifer Kujan	'17

Happy Valentine

### Message from Stan Smith, President

Wow, this year has started off with a bang (see what I did there).

- The Rose Parade had a strong Alabama connection this year. (More below)
- Congratulation to the University of Alabama on another National Championship.
- Tough flu season – be sure to keep hand sanitizer and a mask close by.
- The coldest birthday that I can remember (7 degrees here two weeks ago).

Check out the anniversaries this month. There are 34 people that are 10 years or more post-transplant – fantastic. Only those with release forms are listed! If you don't see your name in your transplant anniversary month, please send in a release form.

### 2018 Donate Life Float

I hope you were able to see the 2018 Donate Life Float in the Rose Parade. There was another strong Alabama connection this year – Ann Rayburn, AOC Director of Education and living kidney donor, walking; Savannah Sides Floragraph on the float; and another transplant friend was remembered with a rose on the float, Gordon Velasco.



Savannah's floragraph is at the 1 o'clock position on the inner ring. Ann is the first walker to the right.

## UAB HEART, LUNG AND LIVER TRANSPLANT SUPPORT GROUP

### Release Form

I give permission for my name, transplant number and transplant date to be used by the UAB Heart, Lung and Liver Transplant Support Group for inclusion in the monthly Newsletter and Support Group Scrapbook. I understand that this information will be used only for official Support Group activities.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Transplant Type \_\_\_\_\_ Transplant Number (If known) \_\_\_\_\_ Transplant Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

The picture on the previous page was a TV screen shot from the HGTV channel. The picture below shows Savannah's florigraph and the picture that was used to create the florigraph.



There was also a rose on the float remembering Gordon Velasco, UAB heart recipient, who passed away some time ago. There is a lot more information about the float online, just search for the Donate Life Float Rose Parade.

#### **UAB NEWS**

Comprehensive Transplant Institute Celebrates 50 Years – UAB Medicine has successfully completed more than 14,000 transplants since 1968 when the first Alabama first kidney transplant was performed. Dr. Keith Wille, Professor, Pulmonary, Allergy, and Critical Care Medicine, has been Elected United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) Region 3 Associate Councilor – congratulations Dr. Wille!

#### **Remembering Stephen Gardner**

On December 8, 2017 we lost one of the founding members of Team Alabama, an AOC volunteer and a good friend of our Support Group, Stephen Gardner, donor Dad. I first met Hope and Steve just a short time after they lost their son, Christopher, in the 90's. They became spokespersons for the Alabama Organ Center telling their story about organ donation. As such, they attended the 1998 US Transplant Games in Ohio with the sole Alabama athlete, Frank Reeves, who was 'Team Alabama'. When the three returned home, they told our AOC Volunteer Group that we can do better than that – and so the beginnings of Team Alabama. Steve was also an avid photographer, and was the primary photographer at the Celebration of Life Picnic for many years. Also, he functioned as the primary photographer for Team Alabama at the Transplant Games for a number of years. Please keep Hope, Drew (their son), and Avery (their granddaughter) in your thoughts and prayers.



#### **'An Organ Donor Saved My Life'**

This is the saying on a T-shirt that the AOC is using for a fund raising project. With the funds generated by the selling of the T-shirts, special gifts will be given to the Donor Families in addition to the Bronze Medallion now presented during the Donor Recognition Ceremony.

If you would be interested in a T-shirt, the cost will be \$12 including shipping and handling (make checks payable to **UAB/AOC Educ. Fund**).

**Carrie Ellis**  
**Alabama Organ Center**  
**502 20<sup>th</sup> Street South**  
**Birmingham, AL 35233**

You can also contact Carrie at the Alabama Organ Center at 205-731-9200.

Remember, you may never know when you might change someone's mind about organ donation through sharing your story. You may even change their life!

Please send your ideas for future meetings to me. Remember to tell your story.

**Stan Smith, President**  
**5213 Peppertree Lane**  
**Trussville, AL 35173**  
**Phone 205-655-3151- please leave a message**  
**Heartlungkid1@gmail.com**

#### **SCHEDULED EVENTS & FUTURE MEETINGS**

March 17, 2018 – Informal dinner meeting  
 April 7, 2018 – *Celebration of Life Picnic*  
 April 14, 2018 – Informal dinner meeting  
 April 28, 2018 – *Alabama Kidney Foundation Walk*  
 May 19, 2018 – Informal dinner meeting  
 June 11, 2018 – Informal dinner meeting  
 July 9, 2018 – Informal dinner meeting

#### **Informal Dinner/Meeting**

Several of our group members get together for an informal dinner/meeting once a month. This month's dinner meeting will be at the Mellow Mushroom, 920 Inverness Corners, just off Highway 280, on Saturday February 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:45 PM. Any pre/post heart, lung or liver transplants and family, donor families, doctors, nurses and staff are welcome to join. Please be sure to let us know that you plan to join in by calling Stan Smith at 205-655-3151 and leave a message.

And remember to... 😊

***"It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light."***

**...Aristotle**

(From Brainyquote.com)

Please tear on the dotted line and return this form as soon as possible to:

UAB Heart, Lung and Liver Transplant Support Group  
 % Stan Smith  
 5213 Peppertree Lane  
 Trussville, AL 35173