



THE CUPOLA

The Bulletin of The Medical Alumni Association of Bassett Medical Center
Cooperstown, New York

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The Passing of Donald A. Henderson, M.D.

by John S. Davis, M.D.



Donald A. Henderson,
M.D.

On August 19, 2016 Bassett and the world lost a giant in the field of epidemiology, most notably related to his leadership role in the eradication of smallpox from the earth. Donald A. Henderson, M.D., known to all as "D.A.," died at age 87 in Baltimore after an operation for a fractured hip led to a methicillin-resistant staphylococcus infection. He had been one of the earliest to raise the alarm about the development and spread of the bacterium that would lead to his own demise. As a bioterrorism

expert in his White House office, he reported directly to President George H.W. Bush. And he received the Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, from President George W. Bush. For examples of his worldwide acclaim, see extended obituaries in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and many other news media.

But little known to those outside the Bassett community was the enduring relationship with Bassett and Cooperstown of Henderson and his wife Nana. After D.A. obtained his medical

degree at the University of Rochester School of Medicine, the Hendersons came to Cooperstown for his internship in medicine at the Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital. They returned in 1958 when the U.S. Public Health Service assigned him to Bassett as Assistant Resident in Medicine and Research Fellow.

In 1988 he was a founding member of the Medical Alumni Association of the Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital and attended many of its annual meetings in Cooperstown through the years, remaining on the Association's Board of Directors through 2008. He was appointed to the Board of Trustees of Bassett Hospital in 1995 and served through 2001 when work related to his emerging role as a bioterrorism expert forced him to relinquish his role. He and Nana made many Cooperstown friends during these years and kept in touch during many visits as time went on.

D.A.'s leadership approach was practical and straightforward, as excerpts from an interview published in *Rochester Medicine* and subsequently in *The Cupola* of Spring 2010 make clear: "An important development in my learning curve derived from the teachings of John Romano and George Engel (psychiatry professors at the University of Rochester). They dwelt on the fact that in interviewing a new patient, one needed to question him carefully and to listen attentively."

Henderson to page 7

Message from the President of the Medical Alumni Board of Directors

This is my final column for *The Cupola*. I will continue to serve on the Board of the Bassett Medical Alumni Association but have completed my term as president, and another Board member will soon take over the reins. Being on the Board has been such a wonderful experience. It has been a privilege to work alongside such kind and dedicated people, and I find myself looking forward all year to our next meeting.

From year to year I am always surprised by the thoughtfulness, good humor and inventiveness expressed by the Board members. They care so much about Bassett—about the medical education programs for faculty, house staff and medical students alike, and about maintaining the special sense of fellowship that sets Bassett apart from other medical institutions.

Over the past few years the Board membership has become increasingly diverse and now includes several newer members of the faculty, recent house staff graduates, and a student representative from the Columbia-Bassett medical school. The



Merideth Davis, M.D.,
President, Board of
Directors, Bassett
Medical Alumni
Association

younger members of the Board have been especially helpful with plans to design a website for Bassett medical alumni. We feel that having such a website is the logical next step in reaching out to more alumni, creating opportunities for alumni to connect with one another both personally and professionally, and improving support for medical education programs at Bassett. We are planning to have the website up and running by next year, and will keep all of you informed as to our progress.

A highlight of this year's Board meeting was hearing from Dr. John Davis about his soon-to-be published book about the history of Bassett. While listening to Dr. Davis provide a brief summary of his book, it occurred to me how amazing it is that a relatively small medical center in a rural and somewhat remote area has attracted and inspired so many very talented, innovative and dedicated people. I feel extremely grateful to have been a part of Bassett, and know that I will continue to lend my support for years to come. I hope that many of you enjoy a similar sense of affection. ■

The Cupola is the newsletter of the Medical Alumni Association of Bassett Medical Center. The Association was founded to provide support and recommendations to Bassett's Medical Education Department; to assist in recruiting medical students, house staff and attending staff; and to provide financial support to develop and enhance medical education at Bassett.

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Members of the board of the Bassett Medical Alumni Association who were in attendance at the meeting in September 2016: First row: Drs. Erin McKay, Vance Brown, Merideth Davis, John Davis, Stephanie Ocegüera, Madiha Alvi. Second Row: Drs. Jim Murray, Alan Kozak, Jacqueline Bello, and Nathaniel Doro. Third Row: Drs. Ken Wilkins, Eric Rubin, Steve Ching. Fourth Row: Drs. Doug DeLong and Henry Weil, and C-B student Nick Feinberg. Back Row: Drs. Tim Whitaker and Anush Patel.

Another Successful Board Meeting

By Douglas M. DeLong, M.D.

On September 30, 2016 members of the board of the Bassett Alumni Association held their annual meeting in Cooperstown. As Executive Vice President, I thank all those who participated and welcome our new members to their first gathering. It was rewarding to see a large turnout of participants and gratifying to have engaging and productive conversations. I hope that my colleagues came away revitalized in our common goals, as I did.

A highlight of the meeting was the discussion on the mission statement for our Association. Over the past year, a task force has worked to craft language reflecting the initial conversations on this subject. Presently, there is consensus on the language and the board has coalesced on the inclusion of values characteristic of Bassett and our experience here. After some fine-tuning, this mission statement and values will be shared with alumni.

In response to the ongoing concerns about how to maintain stronger connections with alumni and foster lifelong engagement with Bassett, the Association has decided to build a website. A subcommittee, including board members Madiha Alvi, M.D., Anush Patel, M.D., Tim Whittaker, M.D., Nick Feinberg, and staff member Melissa Tourtellotte and myself, has been formed to review aspects that will be in



Outgoing President of the Alumni Association Merideth Davis, M.D., hit a homerun with her commitment to the organization. Davis is pictured here taking a swing with a parting gift from colleagues on the board.

the initial build. Our goal is to feature content of interest to alumni, such as a directory, message board, recruitment information and more.

Upon completion of her second term as President of the Medical Alumni Association Merideth Davis, M.D., is stepping down. Her commitment has been

phenomenal and it has been a pleasure to work with her over the past six years. In recognition of her service, the board presented Merideth with a commemorative baseball bat. It didn't take long for her to pose taking a swing!

Board to page 3

Columbia-Bassett Medical School Class of 2020



Back Row L-R: Megan Brennan, M.D., Benjamin Wagner, Kimberly Leon, Leah Apple, Rachel MacLean, Eric Sun and Henry Weil, M.D. Front Row L-R: Emma Gerstenzang, Devin Beecher, Mark Travor, Stephen Sammons and Alison McIlvride.

Kjohlhede Honored with Walter A. Franck Award



Chris Kjohlhede, M.D.

Chris Kjohlhede, M.D., pediatrician at Bassett Medical Center and director of Bassett Healthcare Network's school-based health program, has been chosen as the winner of this year's

Walter A. Franck Physician's Excellence Award. The award was established in 2015 to honor recently retired Walter A. Franck, M.D., a universally-respected rheumatologist who served Bassett Medical Center for many decades, most recently as chief of medicine and director of medical education. The award recognizes a physician who emulates the lifelong career traits of Dr. Franck, including service to patients, students, colleagues, and community. ■

Board from page 2

The board was pleased to receive updates about the various Bassett enterprises. Vance M. Brown, M.D., President and CEO, provided an overview of Bassett's performance and current programs. He shared news that the organization hopes to develop a Family Medicine residency within the Bassett system. Charlotte Hoag, Administrative Director of Medical Education, spoke about the status of the Medical Education Endowment and James Dalton, M.D., gave us the overview on residency programs, while Henry Weil, M.D., provided an update on the Columbia-Bassett Medical School. Program directors provided information specific to their areas: Theodor Kaufman, M.D., presented about the Surgical Residency program, Edward F. Bischof, M.D. addressed the status of the Internal Medicine Residency and Eric L. Knight, M.D., shared news of the Transitional Year residencies.

Institutional historian and former director of Medical Education, John S. Davis, M.D., shared an insightful and personal remembrance of alum D.A. Henderson, M.D. who is featured on page 1. He also offered a visual presentation of *Bassett Hospital in Cooperstown, NY: 200 Years of Healthcare in Rural America*, the book he has authored which is due out in 2017.

Our dinner meeting held at The Otesaga Hotel was not without some excitement. As we were nearing completion, a fire alarm required the evacuation of hotel guests and diners. The alarm may have presented an opportunity for me to run from my role as the Executive Vice President of the Association, but instead I returned to the session with my friends and colleagues, and agreed to continue for at least one more year.

All in all, it was another successful meeting. ■

Bassett Medical Center Accredited as Level II Trauma Center

Bassett Medical Center was recently verified a Level II Trauma Center by the American College of Surgeons (ACS), making it the only Level II trauma center in the eight-county region served by Bassett Healthcare Network and one of only a handful of trauma centers in central New York.

The trauma team includes providers in the specialties of emergency medicine, general surgery, neurosurgery, orthopedic surgery, anesthesiology and radiology who are specially-trained and equipped to rapidly assemble and treat critically injured patients.

"The verification of our trauma program by ACS is important because it reiterates to the public our commitment to optimal care and continual performance improvement in order to assure the highest level of readiness for the severely injured patients who need our help and expertise," notes Dr. Shelby Cooper, medical director of Bassett's Trauma Program.

Bassett Medical Center has been a New York State designated trauma center since 1987. ■



See our latest news and updates at
Bassett Medical Alumni Association

THE BASSETT FAMILY ALBUM — ALUMNI NEWS

Please keep your notes and photos coming!



Cooperstown tennis supporters at the courts of Dr. and Mrs. Emery Herman

1960s

Emery Herman, Jr., M.D. (Attending Physician 1961-94) and his wife Nancy reported that their backyard in Cooperstown, known for its tennis courts, has blossomed into new uses. On Hall of Fame Induction Day, in addition to usual Sunday tennis matches, nearly 150 baseball fans parked their cars and donated a total of \$3,400 to Habitat for Humanity of Otsego County, which has been Emery Herman's principal volunteer involvement over 22 years since his retirement. Also, youth tennis lessons at their courts have been very successful this summer with approximately 80 children taking advantage of this opportunity. This learning experience was initiated by a group of community members: Jeanette Weldon, **Peter van der Riet, M.D.** (Attending Otolaryngologist 2003-present), Chris Hulse and **Anouk Lambers, M.D.** (Attending Obstetrician/Gynecologist 2004-present) who founded a non-profit USTA community tennis association supported by local businesses and individuals.

1970s

Daniel Kinderlehrer, M.D. (Internal Medicine Resident 1975-79) sends greetings from Denver, Colo. He is still

working and his practice specializes in tick-borne infections. He has three daughters and six grandkids which are of course a source of great pleasure.

1980s



Neal Barney, M.D. (Transitional Year Resident 1983-84) is currently a professor in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. In July, he was appointed Medical Director of the Adult and Pediatric Ophthalmology Eye Clinic at the University Station Eye Clinic of the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Recently, he completed his fourth year as Chairman of the Research Committee for the Eye Bank Association of America. This summer, he made presentations on the topic of "Immunomodulation of Diseases at the Ocular Surface" at the meeting of the Society of Toxicology and the Ocular Toxicology, Pharmacology and Drug

Discovery: An Eye on The Future meeting and an article he co-authored was published in the journal *Ophthalmology*.

Davis Ullman, M.D. (Surgery Resident 1983-85; Attending Anesthesiologist 2010) reports that he and colleagues at Bassett are involved in an ongoing study in EGD patients regarding the efficacy of topical viscous lidocaine. An

abstract of their work was accepted for a poster presentation at the American College of Gastroenterology annual meeting in Las Vegas in October 2016. Ullman is the principal investigator and other investigators are

Sheikh Saleem, M.D. (Internal Medicine Resident 2012-15; Hospitalist 2015-present) and **Shashank Kotakonda, M.D.** (Internal Medicine Resident 2013-16). He also noted that invaluable assistance was rendered by the Research Institute including Jennifer Victory, Julie Tirrell and **Patricia Escaler, M.D.** (current Internal Medicine Resident).

Jerrold Vitek, M.D., Ph.D. (Internal Medicine Resident 1984-85) head of the neurology department at the University of Minnesota School of Medicine Medical School, will lead studies in Parkinson's research at the university's new Udall Center which was recently awarded a \$9M federal grant to develop therapies specifically for Parkinson's disease.

2000s

James Murray, D.O. (Medicine Resident 2000-03, Chief Resident 2003-04) enjoyed the recent issue of *The Cupola*, specifically the update from **Gideon Panter, M.D.** (Rotating Intern 1961-62).



Newborn James Murray in the arms of Dr. Panter

He writes, "The name was quite familiar, and I subsequently learned that Dr. Panter delivered me in New York Hospital, in 1971, and is recalled fondly for suggesting that the name Gideon would suit me well. I find it amazing that 40 years after Dr. Panter left Bassett, and 12 years after I left Bassett, we make a connection that we never knew existed. It certainly speaks to the rich, and deep alumni network that exists."

"On a more personal note, **Elizabeth Buttrill Murray, D.O.** (Internal Medicine Resident 2003-04) and I welcomed a new member to our family last month. Harper Lou Murray (we again passed on the name Gideon) came home on September 15th, and joins Nora (age 7), in the Murray household. Elizabeth continues to work in the Strong Memorial Pediatric Emergency Department, and I continue in Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine at Rochester Regional Health."

Murray also had the pleasure of hosting **Kai Mebust, M.D.** (Attending Physician, Division Chief, Hospitalists 2004-present), **David Griger, D.O.** (Attending Physician Rheumatology 2005-present) and **Donald Raddatz, M.D.** (Attending Physician and Division Chief, Rheumatology,

Family to page 5

Family from page 4

1981-present) in Rochester earlier this summer, as they stopped en route to a Cubs game in Washington D.C. It was a great visit and opportunity to catch up with Bassett friends.

2010s

Erica Archer, M.D.

(Transitional Year Resident 2012-13), recently completed her ophthalmology residency at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore, Md. She is currently the neuro-ophthalmology fellow at the University of Michigan Kellogg Eye Center in Ann Arbor, Mich. She plans to return to upstate New York upon completion of her fellowship, to practice general and neuro-ophthalmology in the Albany area.

Nathaniel Doro, D.O.

(Internal Medicine Resident 2015-16) currently a resident in Radiology at Albany Medical Center and a new member of the board of the Medical Alumni Association, is grandson of the late



Peter Young (Columbia-Bassett class of 2017) and **Caitlin Yumori** (Columbia-Bassett class of 2019) who first met at Williams College shared a photo from their recent wedding.

Charles Ashley, M.D.

(Director of Bassett Hospital, 1967-84). While in Cooperstown this summer, he and his wife Kristienna



The Doros with Mrs. Charles Ashley

visited with his grandmother Audrey Ashley, pictured.

David Fredenberg, M.D.

(PGY-4 General Surgery)

recently traveled to Alaska where he met up with two of his former senior residents

Ross Baldwin, M.D.

(General Surgery Resident 2010-15), and

David Morrow, M.D.

(General Surgery Resident 2011-16). The

photo was taken at the top of Exit Glacier in Seward, Alaska. ■



(L to R) David Fredenberg, Ross Baldwin, and David Morrow

Dr. John Davis Visiting Professor Offered Two Days of Insightful Sharing



Robert M. Centor, M.D. and John D. Davis, M.D., at the annual Davis Visiting Professor Lecture.

The 2016 John S. Davis Visiting Professor was Robert M. Centor, M.D., Chair Emeritus, American College of Physicians (ACP) Board of Regents and the current Regional Dean and Executive Director of the University of Alabama School of

Medicine, Huntsville Regional Medical Campus, in Huntsville, Ala. Nicknamed “D.B.” by colleagues and friends, Centor shares wide-ranging thoughts on subjects relating to the medical system, medical education and health issues on his blog entitled, D.B.’s Medical Rants.

Centor’s Medical Grand Rounds presented on Friday September 30, 2016, “Learning to Think Like a Clinician” was illuminating and well received by a large audience. He explored ideas to help practitioners decrease diagnostic errors through an understanding of the common causes for mistakes and offered ways to improve diagnostic expertise.

For Douglas M. DeLong, M.D., Division Chief, Internal Medicine, one phrase that stood out in Centor’s presentation was “wisdom trumps knowledge.” DeLong explained, “by that he meant that expert clinicians have more complete ‘illness scripts’ from which to compare features of a given clinical situation. If the features of the case do not fit with the script a seasoned doctor would shift from experiential to analytic mode and get more data from which to test a new hypothesis.”

The previous day, Centor conducted rounds with the Medicine residents and held a roundtable discussion with Surgical residents. ■

A reminder: Who are the members of the Bassett Medical Alumni Association?

You are past and current interns, residents and fellows.

You are former and current members of the senior doctoral staff.

And you are students of the Columbia-Bassett Medical School program or students who spent your final two years of medical school at Bassett.



COMING SOON!
*Bassett Hospital in Cooperstown, New York:
 200 Years of Health Care in Rural America*
 by John S. Davis, M.D.



For the first time, a complete history of Bassett Hospital is available through the Friends of Bassett. Written by John S. Davis, M.D., former Bassett resident and physician, this insider's look at The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital chronicles Bassett's early days as a recovery hospital for "nerve shocked" World War I aviators and follows its transformation into a lauded rural health-care network.

This is a limited first edition in full color with more than 300 pages and hundreds of photographs, many never before published. It will be available in early 2017 for \$39.95, plus shipping and handling. Watch your mailbox for information on how to reserve your copy!

The publication of *Bassett Hospital in Cooperstown, New York: 200 Years of Health Care in Rural America* was underwritten by generous donations to Friends of Bassett Healthcare Network. All proceeds from the sale benefit Bassett Healthcare Network.

Bassett Welcomes Returning Alumni



Shyam Patel, M.D.

Shyam Patel, M.D., joined Bassett Medical Center as an attending radiologist. He earned his medical degree from Rutgers, New Jersey Medical School, in Newark, N.J. After completing a Transitional Year internship at Bassett, Patel completed a residency in diagnostic radiology at the University of Illinois, Peoria, Ill, and a fellowship at William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, Mich.



Merle Myerson, M.D.

Merle Myerson, M.D., joined Bassett Medical Center as an attending cardiologist. She earned her medical degree at the State University of New York Health Science Center at Brooklyn, College of Medicine, Brooklyn, N.Y. and an Ed.D. in Applied and Exercise Physiology from Columbia University. Myerson did her internship and residency in internal medicine at Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, N.C. She completed a fellowship in cardiology at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and second fellowship in preventative cardiology at The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital. Also, she had a post-doctorate NIH Training Grant in arteriosclerosis at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. She is certified by the American Board of Clinical Lipidology. ■

**Physician Employment Opportunities in
 the Bassett Healthcare Network**

Thinking of a career move? Do you know another physician seeking a position in an award-winning network of six hospitals and over 30 regional sites? Consider these openings in Central New York and Cooperstown.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Anesthesiology | Neurologist |
| Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist | Neurosurgery |
| Dermatology | OB/GYN—Generalist |
| Emergency Medicine | Ophthalmology |
| Family Medicine | Optometry |
| Gastroenterology | Orthopedics—
Hand and Pediatrics |
| General Surgery | Otolaryngology |
| Hematology/Oncology | Program Champion—
Resiliency |
| Hospitalist | Psychiatry—Adult Outpatient |
| Intensivist/Critical Care | Pulmonary Medicine |
| Internal Medicine—OP
General Internist | Radiology |
| Internal Medicine—
Division Chief | Rheumatology |
| | Urology |

For more information visit: <http://recruitment.bassett.org/physician-jobs/>
 Or call the Medical Staff Affairs office at 607-547-6982.

IN MEMORIAM: BASSETT REMEMBERS

Alumni: Please send copies of obituaries of former Bassett trainees, faculty or other members of the "Bassett Family" to cupola@bassett.org

Eric J. Noel, M.D.

Eric J. Noel, M.D., age 49, died on June 13, 2016 while exercising at his gym in Scottsdale, AZ. A graduate of the University of Vermont College of medicine, he worked as a pediatrician at Bassett's Oneonta Health Center from 2003-2005. He was a Diplomate, American Board of Pediatrics; a Fellow, American Academy of Pediatrics; and Instructor in Clinical Pediatrics, College of Physicians and Surgeons. Concurrently, his wife, Jennifer Kull, M.D. served at Bassett's Herkimer Health Center. He is survived by his wife and two daughters, Lily, 18, and Avery, 11. ■



Henderson receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President George W. Bush in 2002

Donald A. Henderson, M.D.

Donald A. (D.A.) Henderson, M.D. died at age 87 in Baltimore on August 19, 2016 from complications of surgery. His wife, Nana Henderson, daughter Leigh Henderson, and sons David and Douglas Henderson survive him.

For an extended discussion of his world-renowned and Bassett roles, see the lead article beginning on page 1 and continued here.

from page 1

"I remember on more than one occasion being sent on an emergency epidemic call and trying to anticipate what I should do and recommend. It was often supposed that because I came from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control), I must be an expert when, in fact, I frequently knew little more than what I had been able to read en route to the scene of the epidemic. Inevitably on arrival, I was invited immediately to meet with government officials, local physicians and others. It proved useful to ask questions and to listen. What do you think is the trouble? How might the problem be handled? As I discovered, many people had both insight and good ideas but had been reluctant to offer them or they were ignored. As an outsider, I could ask questions and solicit answers that others could not. Surprisingly often the problems were readily resolved and appropriate directions emerged. As I moved on to other positions for which I had neither prior training nor experience—director of the global smallpox eradication program, dean of a school of public health, and presidential adviser in the White House—I followed advice (from my medical training) in asking questions, listening, and learning. It was a pleasant and gratifying surprise in every setting to discover the many astute, creative, and helpful people I was working with, but it was necessary to take the time to question and to listen."

Henderson's beloved wife, Nana Henderson, survives him. Their impact on Bassett and Cooperstown was profound, as it was on the national and international stage. ■



1954-55 Bassett House Staff photo: D.A. Henderson is second from right in the first row.



Board of Directors of the Bassett Medical Alumni Association on the lawn of Otesaga Hotel, 1988. D.A. Henderson is shown standing on the far left.



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Smart Giving: Discover the Benefits of a Charitable Gift Annuity

By Jill Maney



Many alumni feel a special connection to Bassett, even if they haven't returned to Cooperstown in decades. Some have even planned a legacy gift to support medical education. How about you?

If you have dreamed about leaving a legacy but thought it might not be possible because you need income now, consider a charitable gift annuity.

Charitable gift annuities are simple contracts between a donor and the

Friends of Bassett that require no special legal procedures. In return for a minimum investment of \$10,000 in cash or securities, the Friends of Bassett will pay you, the donor, annuity payments for the rest of your life.

Many people 65 years old and older use gift annuities as a reliable way to generate income, since the interest they generate is much better than other guaranteed savings vehicles.

Currently, rates start at 4.7 percent for those who are 65 years old and more than 5 percent for those 70 and older.

Key points

- \$10,000 is the minimum amount needed to establish a charitable gift annuity.
- Since a gift annuity is a simple contract, it does not involve substantial legal costs.

- Fixed payments can begin almost immediately. They are based on your age and the value of your gift.
- Once you make your gift, the Friends of Bassett will take care of everything required to establish the annuity. We will send payments directly to you via direct deposit each quarter.
- Upon your death, what is left of the annuity becomes a source of funds to help Medical Education fulfill its mission to educate the next generation of superlative caregivers.

Smart gifts such as charitable gift annuities can deliver better income than low-earning securities or CDs and let you leave a legacy too. You can choose to support a specific program, or you can direct your gift to the annual fund.

Making a planned gift such as a gift annuity also earns you a special place in our annual report: we'll publish your name as a member of the Cupola Society. The society was established to honor the foresight and generosity of donors who express their faith in Bassett's future through bequests and other planned gifts.

When you make an investment in health care, you are making a difference. Consider a charitable gift annuity, and make a smart gift that gives you income today and leaves a legacy for tomorrow. To learn more, contact the Friends at 607-547-3928 or email us at friends.office@bassett.org.

Thank you! ■