

## Gratitude for Excellent Care Prompts Giving

**W**hen Lorraine Lee was diagnosed with a rare head and neck cancer in 2001, her doctor immediately said he would not be able to treat her.

She went to several major hospitals on the East Coast, searching for someone who would perform the necessary—but highly risky—surgery.

“Every physician I met with either didn’t want to perform the surgery or was concerned with quality of life issues,” Ms. Lee recalled.

Ms. Lee was then referred to Peter D. Costantino, MD, Co-Director of the Center for Cranial Base Surgery, the Co-Director of the Center for Craniofacial Reconstruction, and the Vice-Chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at St. Luke’s and Roosevelt Hospitals. He took Ms. Lee’s case on—and saved her life.

Ms. Lee’s experience with St. Luke’s and Roosevelt Hospitals inspired her to contact the Planned Giving Office to include the hospital in her estate plans. “Philanthropy is so important to hospitals. It allows them to attain the very best doctors who can take on the riskiest cases. Because St. Luke’s and Roosevelt had such a skilled and talented surgeon as Dr. Costantino, I was not turned away again.”



Roosevelt-Muhlenberg Society inductees Lorraine and Anthony Lee

“For the rest of my life, I will be indebted to Dr. Costantino and St. Luke’s and Roosevelt for taking on the challenge,” Ms. Lee said. “I encourage people to be philanthropic so that others with difficult cases have a chance to be treated by the very best.”

## 1889 Circle Luncheon / RM Society Luncheon

At their annual luncheons, Beth Israel’s 1889 Circle and St. Luke’s and Roosevelt’s Roosevelt-Muhlenberg Society honored members for their generous commitment to the hospitals. Both the 1889 Circle and the Roosevelt-Muhlenberg Society were formed to recognize those individuals who have made provisions in their estate plans for the institutions.

At the 1889 Circle event on April 7, 2009, 44 guests, including Harris M. Nagler, MD, Interim President of Beth Israel, gathered together to hear Leonid Poretzky, MD, Gerald J.

Friedman Chair of Endocrinology, Chief of the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism at Beth Israel and Director of the Gerald J. Friedman Diabetes Institute, speak about “What We Should All Know About Diabetes.” At the Roosevelt-Muhlenberg Society Luncheon on April 21, 2009, 41 guests, including Frank J. Cracolici, President of St. Luke’s and Roosevelt Hospitals, were treated to a talk by Lawrence C. Newman, MD, Director of the Headache Institute at St. Luke’s and Roosevelt Hospitals, on the topic of “Oh, Your Aching Head.”

### PHOTOS

- 1 Roosevelt-Muhlenberg Society members Rowena and Howard Travis
- 2 Lawrence C. Newman, MD
- 3 Joan Sarnoff and Frank J. Cracolici
- 4 1889 Circle members Faith Grossman and Gisela Haugenes
- 5 Leonid Poretzky, MD
- 6 1889 Circle inductee, Estelle Clements with her husband Mark

