

# THE VILLA NEWS

The Villa Veritas Foundation Newsletter

www.villaveritas.org

Summer Edition

Volume I, Issue II

## FUN IN THE SUN AT THE 2012 VILLA ANNUAL PICNIC

The Villa Veritas Foundation Annual Picnic turned out to be a real crowd-pleaser again this year as Villa alumni, family and friends reunited on July 14 to share good memories, good food and good fun under the sun. When the clouds parted, the good times started with Villa Picnic traditions, including the song stylings of Ed Rocks, and plenty of kid-friendly activities like face-painting, a Children's Parade and a new fun feature: two enormous bouncy houses.

Also, in keeping with Villa Picnic tradition, guests convened under the Big Yellow Tent for a 4:00 pm AA Meeting led by Ken Lavery. Three Villa alumni shared their heartfelt stories of experience, strength and hope to an audience of over 500 attendees. Villa Co-founders, Jim and Sue Cusack presented Villa alumni, Robert Hartman, Owner of Mainstream House of Riverhead, New York with an award for his years of service. He was honored for his "countless efforts and generosity" to the Villa Veritas Foundation, its clients and their families.



Robert Hartman, Villa alumni and owner of Mainstream House, received special recognition.

Rounding up the day, Father Jack Hauser, the Villa's Spiritual Director, conducted a Gratitude Service in thanks for another year of helping others find "help and hope".

## VILLA VERITAS FOUNDATION WALK-A-THON AT THE WALKWAY OVER THE HUDSON

On September 8th, 2012, at 12 Noon, the Villa will be holding a walk-a-thon fundraiser, "Walk the Walk for Recovery" at the Walkway Over the Hudson State Park in Poughkeepsie, NY. This event will benefit the ongoing efforts of the Foundation to help the chemically dependent and their families. We are grateful for the cooperation we have received from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in coordinating the event. We hope you will walk with us or contact us about how you can sponsor a walker. (See page 3 for complete details and sponsorship form)

**REGISTER NOW! [www.villaveritas.org/walk](http://www.villaveritas.org/walk)**



### **2012 ANNUAL DINNER DANCE**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19th 2012**

**TERRACE ON THE PARK  
FLUSHING MEADOWS, NEW YORK**

**BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW  
AND PURCHASE A JOURNAL AD TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!**

Use the Ticket Form on page 5 or visit us online at [www.villaveritas.org/dance](http://www.villaveritas.org/dance)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### WALK THE WALK FOR RECOVERY

Saturday, September 8, 2012 - 12 Noon

Walkway Over the Hudson

61 Parker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY

### FRIENDS OF THE VILLA GOLF TOURNAMENT

September 14, 2012

Smithtown Country Club

Smithtown, NY

for more information please contact

Ken Lavery at (845) 626-3555

email: kenvilla@aol.com

### VILLA VERITAS FOUNDATION

#### ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

Friday, October 19th, 2012

"Coketails" 7:00pm / Dinner 8:00pm

Terrace on the Park

Flushing Meadows, NY

For more information on these or other events,  
please contact Ken Lavery or John Reed at  
(845) 626-3555 or email: [events@villaveritas.org](mailto:events@villaveritas.org)

Stay up to date on all the latest events at:

[www.villaveritas.org](http://www.villaveritas.org)

and Like Us on our Facebook page

[www.facebook.com/villaveritasfoundation](http://www.facebook.com/villaveritasfoundation)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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The Villa News is a collaborative project and maintains a team approach in its organization and publication. If you have a letter, article, story of hope, poem or artwork you would like to submit for publication, please email us at: [newsletter@villaveritas.org](mailto:newsletter@villaveritas.org) or call (845) 626-3555

## From Jim and Sue...

The past two years have been a time of great excitement as we "turned the key" establishing the Villa Veritas Foundation. The now 40 year history of Veritas Villa folds into the new non-profit foundation which will ensure that our mission will continue. With the Foundation comes both challenging hurdles and exciting opportunities. As you'll see in this newsletter we have made great efforts to make physical improvements to the facility, including a renovation of "Upper Maples," the kitchen, and the front entrance. We also have plans to utilize the rest of the Villa property, including an expansion of the present women's unit, continued remodeling of the men's bedrooms and a new fitness center.

To help in those efforts, as well as scholarship funds, on September 8th, we will be holding our first full-scale fundraiser, Walk the Walk for Recovery at the Walkway Over the Hudson in Poughkeepsie, New York. We hope that with the success of this walk-a-thon we can establish this as an annual event. We encourage you to participate, sponsor a walker, and help us help others.

As we celebrate the history and establishment of the Foundation, our passion for our mission is stronger than ever. We ask that God grant us the guidance and strength to perpetuate the Villa as a safe haven of help and hope for generations to come. We are confident that with his guidance, and your continued support, this is possible. Our legacy of offering help and hope to alcoholics and addicts, and instilling that one can LIVE AND ENJOY LIFE WITHOUT ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS, will carry on.

We thank our staff, past and present, whose enthusiasm and devotion, have brought the Villa's mission to where we are today. Additionally, we would like to thank our Board of Directors for their efforts and watchful eye. We are blessed to have such dedicated and faithful members that understand our commitment to help the chemically dependent.

We especially thank you for your support and encouragement. We ask for your continued help and assistance as we move forward with our goals. We hope you'll join us in our mission in whatever way you can. Whether it's taking part in the walk-a-thon, making a donation, coming up to share your experience with the fellowship, or taking a recently discharged client to their first meeting, it's all a part of what makes the Villa special. Your contribution is an invaluable part of the miracles that happen at the Villa.

We are grateful for this opportunity and feel blessed to be able to be of help to others.

Love, *Jim & Sue*

Villa Veritas Foundation

**WALK the WALK**

**for RECOVERY**

Walk the Walk for Recovery is a walk-a-thon fundraiser to benefit the ongoing efforts of Villa Veritas Foundation to help the chemically dependent and their families. Through the leadership of Jim and Sue Cusack, Villa Veritas Foundation's mission is to continue the legacy of help and hope for the addicted and their families. By walking, or sponsoring a walker, you will be a part of helping another alcoholic or addict find a sense of Hope.

**Walk With Us**  
**Saturday, September 8th, 2012**  
**WALKWAY OVER THE HUDSON**

**State Historic Park**  
**Poughkeepsie, New York**  
**12 Noon**

**IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE ONLINE AT**  
**[www.villaveritas.org/walk](http://www.villaveritas.org/walk)**

Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park is a linear walkway spanning the Hudson River. At 212 feet tall and 1.28 miles long, it is the longest, elevated pedestrian bridge in the world. The Walk one way across is approximately 1.28 miles.

The Walkway is 4 blocks from the Poughkeepsie train station and easily accessible from NYC via MetroNorth and Amtrak. Directions via car are available on the park website: <http://www.walkway.org/directions>

Villa Veritas Foundation, Inc. would like to thank in advance the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for their cooperation and support of this event.

**If you are unable to walk, please contact us to sponsor one of our many staff members who will be participating in the event.**

**We greatly appreciate your continued support. Thank you!**

For more information please contact Ken Lavery or John Reed at (845) 626-3555 or email: [events@villaveritas.org](mailto:events@villaveritas.org)



[See back for Pledge Form](#)

Stay up to date on all the latest events at:  
[www.facebook.com/villaveritasfoundation](http://www.facebook.com/villaveritasfoundation)  
and our website [www.villaveritas.org](http://www.villaveritas.org)



**Villa Veritas Foundation**  
**WALK the WALK**  
**for RECOVERY**

WALKER PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING and COLLECT YOUR SPONSORS BELOW.  
 DONATIONS ARE TO BE TURNED IN ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT. CASH AND CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE REPORT TO THE VILLA VERITAS BOOTH AT THE WALKWAY OVER THE HUDSON STATE HISTORIC PARK AT 12 NOON  
 ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2012. ENTRANCE IS ON 61 PARKER AVENUE, POUGHKEEPSIE, NY.

Dear Potential Sponsor,

I am participating in the Villa Veritas Foundation Walk the Walk for Recovery walk-a-thon. All proceeds will help fund the continued efforts of Villa Veritas Foundation to provide treatment to the chemically dependent, instilling a sense of Hope for them and their families. Villa Veritas Foundation thanks you for your contribution!

	Name of Sponsor	Address	Email	Amount
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IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL PLEDGE FORMS PLEASE COPY THIS PAGE OR CONTACT VILLA VERITAS FOUNDATION AT (845) 626-3555.

Please make checks payable to Villa Veritas Foundation  
 Villa Veritas Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible as provided by law.

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# Villa Veritas Foundation Annual Dinner Dance

Join us as we Honor

**Dr. Orlando Perez, R-LCSW, Psy.D.**  
EAP Consultant, Employee Assistance Program  
North Shore-LIJ Hospital

**New York Chapter of  
& Labor Assistance Professionals**

**Friday, October 19th, 2012**

"Coketails" at 7pm      Dinner at 8pm

**Terrace on the Park in Flushing Meadows Park**

Queens, New York, 11368

**Journal, Ticket and Table order Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Dinner Dance Tickets: \$75.00 PER PERSON - \$750.00 PER TABLE**

**Number Requested:** \_\_\_\_\_ **No. Tables Requested:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Reserved under the name of:** \_\_\_\_\_

Journal Ads:

Gold Page: \$ 1000.00  
Silver Page: \$ 500.00  
Bronze Page: \$ 250.00  
Full Page: \$ 175.00  
Half Page: \$ 100.00  
Quarter Page \$ 50.00  
Booster: \$ 1.00

Please attach this order form along with journal ad and mail to:

Villa Veritas Foundation, Inc..

Attention: Dinner Dance

PO Box 610, 5 Ridgeview Road

Kerhonkson, NY 12446

Deadline for Artwork: September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Place your journal message below or attach camera ready artwork to this form or email artwork and message to: [events@villaveritas.org](mailto:events@villaveritas.org)

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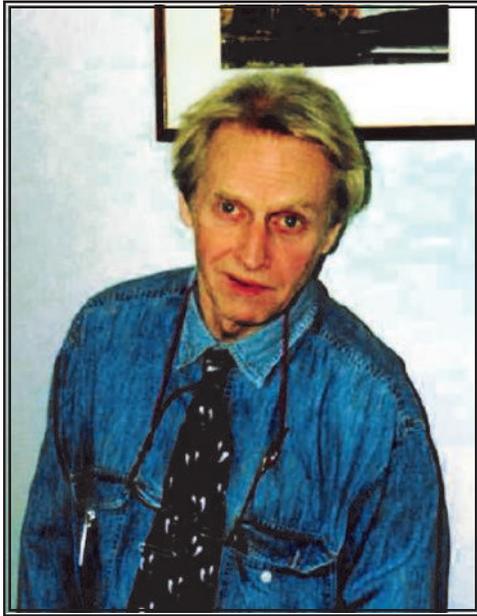
For more information please contact: Ken Lavery or John Reed phone: (845) 626-3555 e-mail: [events@villaveritas.org](mailto:events@villaveritas.org)

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## FRIENDS REMEMBERED . . .



### HAROLD KEEL

(1935 - 2012)

Harold Keel, gifted counselor and beloved friend, passed away in June of 2012. For twelve years, from 1997 to 2009, he worked on the Men's Treatment Team at the Villa.

During his time here he served as the Primary Counselor to hundreds of men struggling with addiction. Harold was known for his direct, straight forward, no holds counseling style. Anything but shy, if he had something on his mind, he let you know. His lecture on Sundays for the Men's Fellowship and Families was a staple in the Villa treatment schedule for years.

Harold exuded a passion for recovery and sincerity for helping the next alcoholic or addict that was contagious. We are thankful for all the good that he did and grateful to have had him as a part of our Villa family.

"Pull your socks up" - Harold Keel

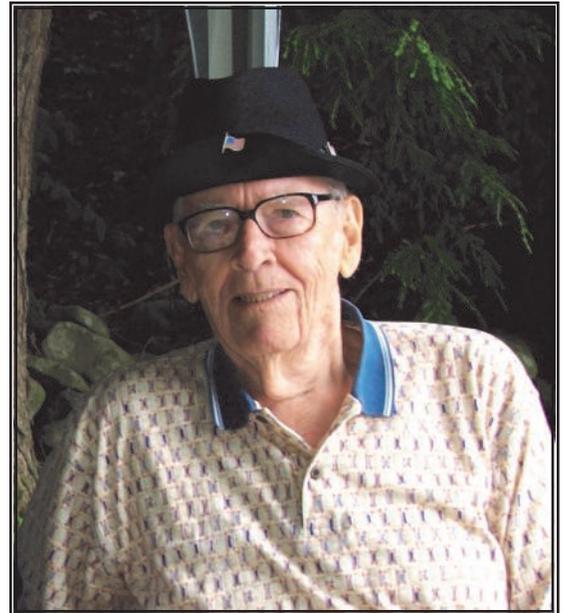
### JOSEPH MCCAULEY

(1926-2012)

Jim and Sue Cusack, Villa staff, alumni, family and friends share the loss of our dear friend, Joe McCauley who passed away on July 15, 2012 following a heroic battle with cancer. Joe died, as he lived, with dignity and courage at his home in Brooklyn with his family members close at hand. He is survived by his sons, Keith and Brian, and two daughters, Betty and Joanne, and their families.

Joe's relationship with Jim and Sue, and his involvement and support of the Villa, go back over 35 years to the founding of Veritas Villa in St. Joseph, NY when Joe brought his expert accounting background to his role as Treasurer of Friends of the Villa. With the help of enthusiastic members of the Villa community, Joe promoted Friends of the Villa activities, including A Day at the Races, our Annual Picnic and Dinner Dance, baseball games and retreats.

More recently, Joe has remained active in Villa Veritas Foundation outings and events and has made appearances to show his continued support of the Villa's mission to perpetuate its legacy. He has received numerous awards and honors for his dedicated service to the Villa over the past four decades. He will be remembered for his intelligence, understanding, wit, wisdom and gratitude for a full life, lived well. Fr. Jack Hauser, Spiritual Director of Villa Veritas, remembers Joe as "a man totally committed to Recovery - not talking that much about it, but living it powerfully one day at a time."



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## MAJOR RENOVATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUE

### Men's Bedrooms

The renovation of the "Upper Maples" rooms are complete. The new rooms feature contemporary bathrooms, including large walk-in showers, new tile and fixtures. The rooms house up to three men and are furnished with new, durable, modern furniture. Room 101 in memory of Dominick Caccippio and Room 102 has been dedicated in honor of Matt Ryan.



### Major Kitchen Renovation

Our kitchen overhaul is nearing completion. New equipment has been installed, a new industrial floor put down, stainless steel shelves put in, and new marlite walls put up from the store room to dining room. Our kitchen, and its staff, has always served us very well, and with these improvements, it will continue to do so for years to come.

### New Landscaping tops off our new front exterior

New landscaping was just completed at the front entrance adding new plants, trees and bushes. This is in addition to the new blacktop that was laid down from the front entrance, to the rear parking lot, to the loading dock last fall. New halogen lampposts were erected illuminating the entrance areas and parking lots.

Future projects include expanding the present Women's Unit, a new fitness center and a complete kitchen renovation. These projects are the result of client input and suggestions, and will allow us to better serve our clients for many years to come. If you are interested in donating to any of these projects please contact the business office or our Founders, Jim and Sue Cusack.



## FRIENDS OF THE VILLA EVENTS

Over the past few months there have been a couple of Friends of the Villa events, including a trip to Stepping Stones, the home of Bill and Lois Wilson, and two trips to Six Flags Great Adventure. Both were attended by staff, alumni and family members. If you have an idea for a Friends of the Villa event or are interested in organizing an event in your area, please contact Ken Lavery or John Reed at (845) 626-3555 or email [events@villaveritas.org](mailto:events@villaveritas.org) To register as a Friend of the Villa use the form below.

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### FRIENDS OF THE VILLA REGISTRATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I am an:  ALUMNI  FAMILY MEMBER  COLLEAGUE  FRIEND  I WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO BECOME A CONTACT PERSON FOR RECENTLY DISCHARGED CLIENTS

MAIL COMPLETED FORM TO: Villa Veritas Foundation, Inc., Attn: Friends of the Villa, PO Box 610, 5 Ridgeview Road, Kerhonkson, NY 12446

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
NEWBURGH, NY 12550  
PERMIT NO. 44635

*Return Service Requested*

**Villa Veritas**  
Foundation, Inc.  
PO Box 610  
5 Ridgeview Road  
Kerhonkson, NY 12446-0610

***Order your Tickets Now for the  
Annual Dinner Dance  
Friday, October 19th, 2012***  
(See the Order Form Inside)



**Friday, September 14, 2012**  
**Smithtown Country Club, Smithtown, NY**

For more information please contact Ken Lavery  
(845) 626-3555 or email: [kenvilla@aol.com](mailto:kenvilla@aol.com)