James Cusack Receives 2010 NY Governor’s Achievement Award

New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services Commissioner, Karen Carpenter-Palumbo presented James Cusack, Co-Founder and President of Veritas Villa with the 2010 Governor’s Lifetime Achievement Award at the Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers of NY State’s annual conference, October 18, 2010 in Saratoga Springs, NY. Each year, the Governor honors a member of the chemical dependency treatment field for exhibiting servant leadership and advocacy in the advancement of prevention, treatment and recovery services in New York. For Jim Cusack, the award came as a complete surprise with the help of Veritas Villa Staff who were on hand to congratulate Jim on receiving such a well-deserved honor. (Pictured above: Jim, Sue and the Veritas Villa staff with OASAS Commissioner Karen Carpenter-Palumbo.)

Veritas Villa Receives Graymoor’s Annual “Sharing Hope” Award

The Friars held their 17th Annual Sharing of Hope Celebration Dinner on October 8th at the Pierre in New York City. The benefit honors those who have shown a commitment to helping others and inspiring hope.

Jim and Sue Cusack and the Veritas Villa treatment facility received the Graymoor Sharing Hope Award. Chancellor of St. Francis College, Frank Macchiarola and his wife, Mary, were presented the Graymoor Award. Larry May of InfoGroup / Direct Media Millard was awarded the Graymoor Community Service Award. V. Rev. James F. Puglisi, SA, Minister General, presented the awards on behalf of the friars. (Pictured above from left: Sue and Jim Cusack, Mary and Frank Macchiarola, Debby and Larry May, Mary Higgins Clark Conheeney, and V. Rev. James F. Puglisi, SA, Minister General.)
2010 Thanksgiving at the Villa with Gratitude and Fellowship

The Villa Family and guests joyfully celebrated a legacy of love and fellowship at its 37th Annual Thanksgiving feast November 25, 2010. Veritas Villa Staff member emeritus, Matt Ryan who counseled thousands of clients during his tenure at Veritas remains very much a part of the Villa family. Matt, who makes Thanksgiving Day Dinner at Veritas part of his holiday ritual, was on hand again this year to receive a special plaque recognizing him for his contributions and dedication to upholding the mission of recovery. Recognition and thanks also to the terrific jobs done by the kitchen staff and crew who worked to prepare a delicious turkey and all the trimmings served following Grace said by Father Jack Hauser. Also visiting was former VV staff counselor, Pat O’Keefe and his family, pictured to the right.

NCADD/Westchester Champions Recovery at Annual Awards Dinner

Award recipients chosen by the Westchester branch of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) spoke passionately about the need for advocacy and education to augment the treatment of drug and alcohol addiction at NCADD’s Annual Marty Mann Benefit Awards Dinner, November 11, 2010. The event was held at the Lake Isle Country Club in Eastchester, NY. Scott Clark of WABC-TV emceed the evening and Christopher Kennedy Lawford was the keynote speaker. Among the honorees accepting awards were WCBS-TV Westchester Bureau Reporter, Tony Aiello, VP and Treasurer of The Christopher D. Smithers Foundation, Thomas D. Croci and EVP Four Winds Hospital, Janet Segal, LCSW. Veritas Villa lent its support to NCADD/Westchester by sending a representative crew, including Executive Team Member, Joe Stoeckeler, CASAC, Barbara Murray, Special Projects Coordinator, Fr. Jack Hauser, Spiritual Director, Michael Holsborg, NCAC and Joanne Tirante, CASAC from the Women’s Treatment Team.
**Veritas Villa’s 37th Annual Dinner Dance**

For Jim and Sue Cusack, founders of Veritas Villa, the 2010 Veritas Villa Dinner Dance was the last of its kind as we know it, ushering in what promises to be a wave of future annual celebrations under the banner, The Villa Veritas Foundation Annual Dinner Dance. For the Cusacks, re-establishing Veritas Villa as a non-profit has been a labor of love executed to ensure the legacy and philosophy of the facility as a safe haven for recovering alcoholics and addicts for generations to come.

The 37th Annual Veritas Villa Dinner Dance was held October 22, 2010 at Terrace on the Park in Flushing Meadow, Queens. Roger Ross, President of LAP, New York, and EAP Director for the Steamfitters (Local 638) was the 2010 honoree and received an award from Jim Cusack in appreciation for his years of dedication and service to the Recovery community. Also honored for her loyal service to Veritas for over 20 years was VV Executive Team Member, Pat Cooney.

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**Poetry Corner**

Samantha-Jo is 17 years old. She frequently writes to her mother, Lois, who was in treatment at Veritas Villa. When Samantha Jo learned from her Mom that poetry was part of the Women’s Program and her Mom’s recovery would benefit the whole family, Samantha–Jo wrote a poem too!

**A New Day**

Don’t worry any longer there’s no reason to cry this new path will guide you and wipe your tears dry if feeling misguided look ahead and say this is my new path today’s a new day

- Samantha-Jo

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**Ellenville Gala**

Past President and Board Member of the Ellenville Regional Hospital Foundation (ERH), the Honorable Ronald Elias was honored posthumously for his professional accomplishments and service to the community at the ERH Foundation’s Annual Gala on September 25th, 2010. The function was held at Honor’s Haven Resort, Kerhonkson NY where strong supporters of ERH from Veritas Villa attended to participate in the evenings activities.
VERITAS VILLA STAFF ATTENDS LICADD ANNUAL ANGEL BALL

Representing Veritas Villa at the Long Island Council on Alcohol & Drug Dependence (LICADD) Annual Angel Ball held May 4, 2010 in Garden City, NY, were Lyn Rubin, CASAC and Ken Lavery, CASAC. For over 54 years, LICADD has successfully delivered evidence-based programs designed to prevent and treat substance abuse and addiction.

At this year’s event, LICADD bestowed its 2010 Founders Award on Bill Baum, CEO of Essex Mfg., Inc. and Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors for LICADD. Christopher Kennedy Lawford received LICADD’s 2010 Humanitarian Award and was the keynote speaker for the evening. Veritas Villa Women’s Director, Lyn Rubin said the theme of the evening was clear: “Intervention and prevention were the focus, and the involvement of young adults as messengers of hope and recovery is critical to LICADD’s mission to treating chemical addiction successfully.”

ST. CHRISTOPHER’S INN CENTENNIAL DINNER

Veritas Villa Founders, Jim and Sue Cusack and Veritas staff members were present to help St. Christopher’s Inn at Graymoor celebrate its Centennial at its Annual Board of Directors Dinner, May 20, 2010 at the New York Botanical Gardens, Bronx, NY. St. Christopher’s Inn, located in Garrison, NY, is a “temporary homeless shelter dedicated to the rehabilitation of men in crisis” administered as a Ministry of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement. The Honorees for the evening were Ted Mapes, Co-founder of Labor Assistance Professionals (LAP) and Fr. Bill Drobach, S.A., Vice President, St. Christopher’s Inn. Both men were acknowledged and applauded for their humanitarianism and dedication to assisting the less fortunate.

SOBER HOUSING IS FOCUS AT MARC ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Of the many dedicated professionals working in the Chemical Dependency Treatment Field today, some of the most active proponents in favor of affording recovering addicts opportunities for advancement are right here in the Hudson Valley. To review its achievements and identify areas for growth and advancement, members of the Mid-Hudson Addiction Recovery Centers, Inc. (MARC) convened for their 33rd Annual Luncheon May 17, 2010 at Christos Restaurant in Poughkeepsie. Karen Carpenter-Palumbo, Commissioner for the New York State Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) and the afternoon’s featured speaker, addressed sober housing, advising MARC Board of Directors and Staff to continue to use state funding wisely and judiciously.

Representing Veritas Villa at the luncheon were, Co-founders, Jim and Sue Cusack, Joe Stoeckeler, VV Executive Team Member and Jane Shulkin, CASAC, MSW. A Member of the MARC Board of Directors, Jane noted her pride at witnessing MARC’s progress. “I’ve been there from the beginning and seen it grow in all aspects,” she said.
2010 VERITAS VILLA YEAR IN PICTURES
VERITAS VILLA ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW LIFE AT THE VILLA

Shana and Eric became the proud parents of a baby girl, Angelina, born Friday November 19, 2010. Angelina was 9lbs, 3oz and 22 inches long. Congratulations Shana and Eric and welcome to the world, Angelina!

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO THE NEWLYWEDS

Clint Rettenmaier and his new bride, Melissa were married 10/10/10 in a helicopter over Niagara Falls. After honeymooning in Niagara Falls, the couple returned home to Spring Glen where they plan to settle and start a family. On his return to work in the Veritas Villa kitchen, Clint was met with cheers and hurrahs by his co-workers.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DALE CARNEGIE AWARDS RECIPIENTS

Two members of Veritas Villa’s Management Staff were recipients of Dale Carnegie Awards reflecting their progress and potential in their professions. Pat Cooney, Member of the Veritas Villa Executive Team was selected by her course peers for the “Breakthrough Award” and “Visionary Award” for showing growth and potential. Clinical Director, John Reed, took home the “Highest Achievement Award” and the “Human Relations Award.” These reflect their courage, flexibility and willingness to take risks. Congratulations to both award winners!
LEGAL ACTION CENTER CELEBRATES 10TH BENEFIT ANNIVERSARY — BESTOWS ARTHUR LIMAN PUBLIC INTEREST AWARDS

Suzanne B. Cusack, Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Action Center (LAC) and co-Founder of Veritas Villa, along with husband and Veritas Villa President, Jim Cusack and other VV Staff including, General Manager, Les McCandless and Women’s Program Director, Lyn Rubin attended the LAC’s 10th Anniversary Benefit November 15, 2010 at the Tribeca Roof Top in Manhattan. The evening’s program centered around the presentation of two Arthur Liman Public Interest Awards named for LAC’s Founding Father. Since 1972, the LAC has been the only nonprofit law and policy organization in the US whose sole mission is to fight discrimination against people with histories of addiction, HIV/AIDS and/or criminal records.

The recipients of the Arthur Liman Public Interest Awards for 2010 were Claire Simon, Executive Director, Young Women of Color HIV/AIDS Coalition and Amy W. Schulman, SVP and General Counsel, Pfizer, Inc.

ELLENVILLE NAACP BANQUET

On October 30th 2010, Veritas Villa staff members, including Joe Stoeckeler, Executive Team Member, Lyn Rubin CASAC, Daisy Carney, Frank Lovell, CASAC, DoHwan Lee, Bob Elting CASAC, and Jane Brown, CASAC-T attended the 42nd Annual NAACP Banquet Dinner at the Hudson Valley Resort. Among the Honorees this year were Arthur L Pulley ESQ., and Bernice Cosey Pulley. The Ellenville NAACP has worked tirelessly to secure equal rights for over 42 years.

HALLOWEEN 2010

On October 29, 2010, Veritas Villa kicked off its holiday season in the traditional Villa manner with a costume party contest and celebration. Clowns, gangsters and princesses competed for applause from the Fellowship.
**THE VILLA PICNIC**

On July 10th at 11:00 AM our Villa Family welcomed clients, alumni and friends to our annual life’s blessings celebration. Over 600 guests swam in our pool, played miniature golf and horse-shoes and walked around our beautiful pond, enjoying the sounds of nature and spying turtles sitting on logs. At the close of the day filled with fun and food, guests gathered under the “Big Tent” at 4:00 PM as speakers at the AA meeting shared their experiences and hope.

**PARK SLOPE MAKES ANNUAL BUS TRIP TO VV**

The Park Slope AA group in Brooklyn and their families have been taking “AR’s Bus Ride to The Villa” every year for the past 29 years to spend a summer Sunday in the country at Veritas Villa. According to Carol Clouden, one of the organizers of the annual event, the first AR Bus Ride was conceived by Al Richardson (for whom the trip is named) when AA newcomers complained to him, since they’d stopped drinking, they weren’t having fun anymore. Al contacted Veritas Villa and spoke with Co-founder, Sue Cusack who granted Al’s request Park Slope have a Picnic on Villa grounds. Once the tradition was established, after a couple of years, Veritas General Manager, Les McCandless agreed to Carol’s suggestion Park Slope piggyback its Sunday outing following Veritas’ Annual Picnic traditionally held on a July Saturday under a large tent rented for the entire weekend.

So began another “Fun in Sobriety” tradition celebrating the Fellowship of AA. The AR Bus Ride from Brooklyn to Kerhonkson is another successful example of how the Program works to help establish and sustain sober history, one AA at a time, one day at a time. To the happy, smiling folks who boarded the buses at the end of the day to make the trip back to Brooklyn, on behalf of Jim and Sue Cusack, “See you next year!”

**A LITTLE “CHRISTMAS IN JULY” FOR VERITAS**

Though there wasn’t any snow on the rooftops, no mistletoe or “Ho, ho, ho,” the Spirit of the Holidays warmed the hearts of Villa Family members August 11, 2010 as Jim and Sue Cusack and Veritas Villa were presented with an honorary plaque in appreciation for their generosity and contributions to the community by Pastor John LeCain of the Federated Church of Kerhonkson. Veritas Villa staff members contribute to a fund to buy a Holiday meal for needy families within the community.
VERITAS VILLA HONORS AN AA CHAMPION AND SAYS “GOODBYE” TO A TRUE FRIEND

Barney Roche, whose life and contributions were heralded at a Memorial Service held at Veritas Villa, April 27, 2010. Barney’s wife, Barbara, his two daughters and their families stood proudly by his portrait for photographs at the service.

Anyone looking for Barney Roche will find him in “the next room” where his spirit dwells for eternity, making “himself” available as always to friends and family in need of advice, encouragement, or a good swift kick in the “arse.” Originally from County Cork, Ireland, Barney immigrated to the US to settle in New York where he met Jim who was managing his first facility, Glen Acre Lodge in Glen Spey, NY. With Jim’s help and guidance and a commitment to living sober, Barney successfully worked his AA Program and formed a bond with Jim that would last a lifetime.

According to co-founder of Veritas Villa, and close friend of Barney’s for over 40 years, Jim Cusack proclaimed the gathering a celebration of the life of a devoted family man and committed member of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). Jim referred to Barney as a “straight shooter,” a “risk taker” when it came to doing work in the service of the Fellowship of AA.

VV CELEBRATES SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS

50! VV Executive Team Member, Joe Stoeckeler, received a warm welcome from well-wishers when he arrived in a balloon-strewn Dining Room at Napanoch’s White Wolf Restaurant April 25, 2010. Joe was the Guest of Honor for his 50th Birthday Celebration at a surprise party arranged for him by his children and wife, Theresa.

81! With over eight decades of living and still a lot left to do, VV co-founder, Jim Cusack celebrated his 81st birthday with a lunch party in the Sunshine Room. Guests gathered to extend best wishes and gratitude to a beloved and honored role model, leader and father-figure who continues to dedicate his life to his passion: creating and maintaining a “safe haven” for the chemically dependent.

70! “Three’s a charm” because Veritas Villa, General Manager, Les McCandless also celebrated a significant birthday, turning 70 in September, 2010 amid a sizeable gathering of friends and colleagues in the Villa’s Sunshine Room. Expressions of gratitude and love were shared on this special occasion.
FORE! SCORE!

Veritas Villa co-founders, Jim and Sue Cusack accepted a generous check from Bobby Hartmann, Proprietor of Mainstream House, a halfway residence for men in recovery located in Riverhead, NY. The donation represented proceeds from the Mainstream House’s first annual charity golf tournament held May 13, 2010 at Calverton Links in Riverhead. A Veritas Villa Alum, Bobby also presented Sue Cusack with a limited edition decorative print as an expression of gratitude for the love, care and concern Jim and Sue have for all who find the help they need at Veritas. According to Jim Cusack, Mainstream’s contribution will go to the Veritas Villa Scholarship Fund.

A MESSAGE FROM JIM AND SUE …..

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As we all know, more and more people are becoming addicted to medications which are being given out so liberally by the medical community. We strongly believe, and advocate, that recovery is best obtained and maintained through abstinence from all mood-altering substances for a trial period of time in a controlled environment, which is a belief that was strongly held long ago when “common sense was more common.” During, or after that time, a proper diagnosis can then be made. Replacing one drug with another drug (or medication as they like to call it), is simply replacing one addiction for another. More and more, it is becoming apparent that the salvation of our country is going to rest on the shoulders of the recovering community. To truly get recovery, it is best to follow a 12 Step Program, and be among the “fellowship” of your peers who have recovered from the same disease we all do. If you are seeking additional support in your recovery, checkout www.12stepmeeting.com to hear inspirational stories of transformation from others in recovery. It is through modalities such as www.12stepmeeting.com that the recovering community will continue to gain strength and provide support to those in recovery and those seeking recovery for many years to come.

Now About Our Favorite Gift of Hope.

We at the Villa recognized not only the world needed the story of the Chilean Miners courage and strength, so did all of us in the addiction field. These men rose above the worst obstacles and kept hope and love alive, to not only survive, but to show us what true fellowship, hope and what a Christmas Spirit can be.

Until next time!

Love,
Jim and Sue

Editing Team note:
We hope you like the changes in the VV Newsletter. This year we have put an emphasis on a team approach in the organization and publication. Please visit our website www.veritasvilla.com and sign up on our email list for Jim and Sue’s Bulletins and an electronic version of our newsletters. We invite your comments and suggestions. You can email us at newsletter@veritasvilla.com or call us at 845-626-3555.
PLEASE HELP US UPDATE OUR MAILING LIST

► ARE YOU AN ALUMNI OF VERITAS VILLA?
YES ☐ NO ☐ IF “YES,” WHEN? ______________

► ARE YOU A FAMILY MEMBER OF A VILLA ALUM?
YES ☐ NO ☐ RELATIONSHIP:_____________________

► WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP US UPDATE OUR MAILING LIST? IF “YES”, PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR CURRENT INFORMATION.

NAME: ____________________________________________

ADDRESS: ____________________________________________

PLEASE ADD APARTMENT OR SUITE NUMBER

CITY:________________________ STATE:________ ZIP:________

DATE OF BIRTH: MONTH _______ DAY ______ YEAR _______

TELEPHONE: ____________________________

► SIGN UP ON OUR EMAIL LIST FOR JIM AND SUE’S BULLETINS AND AN ELECTRONIC VERSION OF OUR NEWSLETTERS.

E-MAIL: ____________________________

► WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO VOLUNTEER AS AN INITIAL PHONE CONTACT FOR A RECENT VILLA ALUM?
YES ☐ NO ☐

YOU MAY RESPOND BY MAIL TO:
VERITAS VILLA, P.O. BOX 610,
KERHONKSON, NY 12446
OR CONTACT US VIA E-MAIL: founders@veritasvilla.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION.
**SAVE THE DATE FOR UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2011**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>May 30</td>
<td><strong>MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION</strong></td>
<td>Sue Heath</td>
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<td>June 3</td>
<td><strong>VILLA INNS 16TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT</strong></td>
<td>Ken Lavery</td>
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<td>Roundout Country Club</td>
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<td>July 9</td>
<td><strong>VERITAS VILLA ANNUAL PICNIC</strong></td>
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<td>September 9</td>
<td><strong>FRIENDS OF VILLA GOLF TOURNAMENT</strong></td>
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<td>Smithtown County Club</td>
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<td>October 21</td>
<td><strong>ANNUAL VERITAS VILLA DINNER DANCE</strong></td>
<td>Sue Heath</td>
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<td>Terrace on the Park</td>
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For any questions regarding upcoming events please call (845) 626-3555

If you have a letter, story of hope, poem or artwork you would like to submit for publication please email us at newsletter@veritasvilla.com

**“IT IS POSSIBLE TO LIVE AND ENJOY LIFE WITHOUT ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS”**