

Peace Harbor welcomes 4 new providers



Dr. Nora Kirschner



Gina Owens, nurse practitioner



Dr. Scott Russi



Dr. Sara Batya

PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center has announced four new providers.

Dr. Nora Kirschner has joined PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center as a hospitalist. She earned her medical degree from Georgetown University School of Medicine in Washington, D.C. She completed her residency in primary care internal medicine at the University of Virginia Hospital in Charlottesville, Va. Most recently, she was a hospitalist at Toppenish Community Hospital in Toppenish, Wash.

Gina Owens, a nurse practitioner, has joined PeaceHealth Medical Group's family medicine team at PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center. She earned

a master of science degree in nursing from Walden University, based in Minneapolis, Minn. She has worked in nursing for 27 years. Most recently, she worked at an urgent care clinic in Benton, Ky.

Dr. Scott Russi has joined PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center as a relief general surgeon. He earned his medical degree from the Ohio State University College of Medicine in Columbus, Ohio. He completed residencies at Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, and Keesler Medical Center at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Miss. He worked at Northwest Surgical Specialists in Springfield for four

years and, most recently, at the Eugene VA Healthcare Center.

PeaceHealth also has hired a specialist. Dr. Sara Batya has joined PeaceHealth Medical Group's neurology department. She is a movement disorder specialist, treating patients with diseases such as Parkinson's, Huntington's, essential tremor, tics and dystonia. She earned her medical degree at Tulane University in New Orleans and completed a residency in neurology and a fellowship in movement disorders at Stanford University. She previously was a partner at Oregon Neurology Associates in Springfield. She is board president of the Lane County Medical Society.

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According to Utz, the reason given to Siuslaw School District was that the program's goals and design did not score high enough on their rubric.

"With each new grant application, the federal government requires that we make it new, even if what is in place is working well," she said. "Our updated goals that were not accepted were: ongoing after school tutoring, credit recovery for high school students, increased STEAM activities and learning, social-emotional learning activities and special education case management and instruction for after school."

Grzeskowiak and Utz are still for-

mulating a strategy to offer some form of afterschool program for students, as many families depend on the nutritional and academic support offered over the past few years at Twilight Program functions.

"Over the last decade, the Twilight After School Programs has become a program that many in the community have come to depend on, and it has been a great enrichment resource for students," Grzeskowiak said. "Right now, the district is looking at shifting one grant source and re-structuring another."

Another possible avenue for continuing to offer some sort of afterschool programs could include forging a closer relationship with other groups involved in student

education and recreation. Applications for grant considerations may be more favorably received with the inclusion of one or more local organizations.

"There has been a coordination of afterschool programs with the Boys and Girls Club for several years now, and their programs are going great," Grzeskowiak said. "Looking at the districts that were funded for Twilight grants, many were sponsored applications where a local group or club provided afterschool services for students and families from the grant, rather than directly by the district. As we look over the evaluation notes from the application review committee, if a sponsored

Spirituali-Tea to explore 'Power to the People'

On Monday, July 23, beginning at 6:30 p.m., all are invited to join a group of people who enjoy finding the common grounds in diverse spiritual thoughts and paths. The meeting is at 875 Seventh St. in Florence. The topic is "Power to the People."

The Bahá'í Writings say; "Bestir yourselves, O people, in anticipation of the days of Divine justice, for the promised hour is now come."

For many decades, the expression "Power to the People" has given voice at different times in different places to a yearning for democracy.

But "Power to the People" isn't satisfied merely with holding and winning elections, or having a select few represent the interests of the majority within state institutions. "Power to the People" speaks to a greater desire—that grassroots movements and organizations lead the pursuit of social justice. It signifies an organic connection between the activities of individuals and small groups at the local level with nationwide and international organizations working in common cause. In keeping with its broader ap-

proach to democracy, the Bahá'í teachings deeply resonate with these ideas in some respects, but fundamentally departs from them in others. Both points of view seek to empower ordinary people to have a say on issues that affect their lives.

But the kinds of power they seek tend to operate in very different ways. On the one hand, power can confront, resist and oppose. On the other hand, power can enlighten, transform hearts and apply scientific and spiritual knowledge to practical concerns.

On Monday, look deeper at these differences between the Bahá'í Faith and various movements calling for radical, power-to-the-people democracy. With these distinctions in mind, we'll be on firmer ground to truly understand the similarities.

Bring thoughts on the subject for open discussion.

The gathering will end at 8 p.m. with prayers for the requests left in the Prayer Pole in the garden of the Florence Playhouse and those shared by the group. For more information, contact Suzanne Mann-Heintz at 541-590-0616.



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