



## Bird flu in the spotlight, not just for the birds

Since March, bird flu, which in recent years yielded to Covid in the index of worldwide disease concerns, has been back in the news after outbreaks among dairy cows in multiple states and at least one infection in a farmworker in Texas.

The influenza virus, called highly pathogenic H5N1, can be transmitted by wild birds to domestic poultry and other bird and animal species. **Dr. Seung Kang**, The Floating Hospital's infectious disease specialist, said sporadic cases of infected mammals have been reported, but its spread among cows was unexpected. "Scientists are concerned that bird flu in cattle could become a permanent reservoir for the virus, giving it more chances to mutate and spread to humans."

[READ MORE](#)



## Harry Santa-Olalla puts the fun in fundraising

Bringing a wealth of energy to the benefit scene, **Harry Santa-Olalla** is a one-man distillation of enthusiasm and showmanship when he takes the stage to ensure guests are having a blast as they open their hearts (and wallets) to support worthy causes around the world. On June 4, he will take the same spirit to The Floating Hospital's Golden Legacies Gala as the evening's auctioneer. (**Simon Jones** of HBO's *The Gilded Age*, will serve as MC. See related news article).

[READ MORE](#)



Simon Jones

Breaking news — we can now announce that **Simon Jones** will serve as **The Floating Hospital's Golden Legacies Gala MC**. As such, the actor, who is part of the ensemble cast in HBO's *The Gilded Age* series, will add some lively authenticity to the evening's own Gilded Age theme.

The series was created and written by **Julian Fellowes**, who also created the ever popular *Downton Abbey*, set in Yorkshire during the early years of the 20th century. Jones played King George V for a recent film sequel to that show, which ran from 2010 to 2015.

[READ MORE](#)



### Tuscan villa on the block

The Golden Legacies Gala will evoke the Gilded Age in all its grandeur and generosity. But why limit the indulgence to one night, when a weeklong "dolce vita" experience in Tuscany is up for bidding?

Included in the evening's celebration is an auction for a seven-night stay in a luxury villa outside of Cortona, a Medeval hill town that *Condé Nast Traveller* dubbed the "Queen of Tuscany." A perfect combination of old world charm and modern conveniences, it accommodates up to eight guests with housekeeping, concierge service and a chef-prepared daily breakfast enhancing the property's comfort and beauty.

[READ MORE](#)

## News + Events



### Let's go Mets!

The Floating Hospital provides much more than healthcare. Whether it's baby needs and personal care items or food, the hospital aims to supply its patients with basic tools of survival, and often a little more.

Lately, the "little more" has been donations from Rescuing Leftover Cuisine, a national nonprofit based in New York City that prevents food waste and addresses food insecurity by redistributing excess food to communities experiencing hunger. According to its website, RLC has rescued more than 15 million pounds of excess food and provided more than 12.5 million meals since its founding in 2013. [More...](#)



## THE FLOATING HOSPITAL everybody is welcome

### On the march with the Queens Pride Parade

For a second year, The Floating Hospital is a proud sponsor of the **Queens Pride Parade** both as a community member in Queens, and to serve as a reminder that its services are available to everyone in that community.

The annual event takes place on **June 2** from noon to 6pm. The parade route follows 37th Avenue from 89th to 75th Street in Jackson Heights. The destination is a multicultural festival with vendors and performances at 37th Road and 75th Street, where the hospital will have a booth with information on its programs. [More](#)

### STAFF HERO



On April 24, The Floating Hospital joined in the worldwide observation of Denim Day, an annual event to raise awareness about sexual violence. It was a day for staff members to show their support of victims and to bring awareness to the myths surrounding these attacks by wearing denim and messages of support. [More](#)



## from the SHIP'S LOG WHERE SALTY BREEZES BLOW



1937: The **Mount Loretto orphanage's band**, seen top left, provides the music for the first sail of the year. Our founding story feels very entwined with Mount Loretto's founder, **Rev. John C. Drumgoole**. He was a hero of the newsboys who thronged Park Row when the area was the headquarters of the city's major newspapers and was considered an unofficial patron saint of people experiencing homelessness, orphans, and the less fortunate. In 1871, he ran the first "Newsboys' Lodging House," then a mission further uptown, before founding Mount Loretto as an orphanage on Staten Island in 1883. It's possible that St. John's Guild established Seaside Hospital at New Dorp, Staten Island, due to the legacy of the good priest, who died of pneumonia caught during the great blizzard of 1888.

To read more stories from our past, please follow us on our [Instagram Archive](#).

[VISIT OUR ARCHIVE](#)

[Donate](#) to help make healthcare for all New Yorkers a reality



Thank you from all of us at  
The Floating Hospital

Grand Central Station, P.O. Box 3391,  
New York, New York 10163  
718-784-2240  
[info@thefloatinghospital.org](mailto:info@thefloatinghospital.org)