

Sheboygan Senior Community

Short Term Rehab • Assisted Living
Skilled Nursing Care



July 2017

3505 County Road Y, Sheboygan WI 53083

Resident Birthdays



July 1	Harriet Jensen
July 3	George Isken
July 6	Gary Thurston
July 18	Gary Baker
July 26	Barbara Pelkin
July 26	Joan Reinemann

Upcoming Special Events in July

- July 10 – 2:30pm – Steve & Kathleen Music Program – TOL
- July 11 – 2:00pm – A Sharp & A Flat Music Program – TOL
- July 12 – 2:00pm – Friendly Voices – Hymn Sing-Along – TOL
- July 12 – 2:00pm – Coffee in the Café – Café Redwood
- July 14 – 2:00pm – Old Time Rebel Musical Entertainment – TOL
- July 15 – 11am-2pm – “Remember When” 25¢ Ice Cream Cones – Cafe
- July 18 – 10:30am – Summer Art Project – Maple Dining Room
- July 19 – 2:15pm – Friendly Voices – Love Song Sing-Along – TOL
- July 21 – 2:00pm – Happy Hour – Maple Dining Room
- July 21 – 2:00pm – Happy Hour – Willow Dining Room
- July 22 – All day – Aviary Bird Buzz – TOL
- July 24 – 2:00pm – Concert in the Café with Root Beer Floats – Café
- July 25 – 10:00am – Music with Dr. Hancock – TOL
- July 26 – 2:00pm – Friendly Voices Old Time Faves Sing-Along – TOL
- July 26 – 2:00pm – Coffee in the Café – Café Redwood
- July 28 – 2:00pm – Happy Hour & Jack Borckenhagen Music – TOL
- July 31 – 2:00pm – Polka Music with Ryan Kautzer – TOL

Staff Birthdays

07/02	Eva Rusch
07/05	Mia Yang
07/06	Debbie Johnson
07/07	Candice Baker
07/08	Sharon Boedecker
07/08	Lora Bruns
07/10	Zachary Winkel
07/12	Chris Parrish
07/14	Evan Nemecek
07/19	Dorothy Warne
07/21	Tammy Ross
07/22	Randal Stuckmann
07/28	Jenilee Charles
07/30	Alex Arpke

Staff Anniversaries

July 9	Virginia Aguirre	2 years
July 9	Mia Yang	2 years
July 21	Cassie Grande	1 year
July 21	Evan Nemecek	1 year



From the Desk of Paul Treffert

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- We believe that each person is a child of God imbued with dignity and worth.
- We accept people right where they are and just the way they are.
- We believe that all people should be able to live in affordable, safe, and sanitary housing.
- We are committed to witness through the good quality of our work and careful stewardship of our resources.
- We believe God calls people to serve others as volunteer partners in ministry and we will encourage their growth in faith as they answer this call.
- Where ASP is involved in local communities we will encourage, affirm, and support the fair and just treatment of people.
- We believe in ministering in the spirit of love, acceptance, and hopefulness.

The Guiding Principles above are those of the Appalachian Service Project. ASP was founded in 1969 by a United Methodist Minister named 'Tex' Evans as part of his ministry in the Appalachian Mountains of rural Kentucky. Tex filled up his old station wagon with supplies and recruited 50 high school students and adult leaders to begin repairing existing homes with the goal of making them 'warmer, safer, drier.' In 48 years over 393,000 ASP volunteers have repaired 17,000 homes in Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

I had the good fortune of serving as an Adult Leader of ASP for six summers. Although it was a while ago, I remember like it was yesterday – each of those six experiences and the contrast of seeing desperately poor people living in some of the most beautiful land that God ever created. And the stories. So many stories. Some funny, some tragic, but all powerful and memorable in their own way.

I was reminded of Tex Evans and ASP when considering the legacy of Mr. Jim Houwers and his contribution to Sheboygan Senior Community. Mr. Houwers (also a United Methodist...coincidence??) is presiding over his last meeting as President of the SSC Board of Directors at the end of July and wrapping up his nine years of service to SSC as a Board Member. He has spent countless hours providing leadership to the organization, assisting with the growth and development of our wonderful new building and serving as a liaison to the community of Sheboygan.

Since I joined SSC, Jim's directives to me have been straightforward: *provide the best care possible, be a good employer, keep SSC independent and financially stable, be creative, honor our ties to the church and the community.* Not quite as succinct as 'Warmer, Safer, Drier,' but for me, trying to fulfill these expectations and sharing the vision of our entire Board has been a professional dream come true.

Jim spent his career as an art teacher in the Sheboygan School District. (An example of his talent is on display in the form of the beautiful cross that hangs in our Tree of Life Room.) Along with spending his retirement with his wife, Pat, and spending time with his children and grandchildren, Jim helps out at St. Luke's spending considerable time working in locales across the country trying to improve the lives of those less fortunate. Jim and Pat also make a generous monthly financial contribution to the SSC Foundation, helping us continue our mission of serving Sheboygan Seniors for years to come. Jim learned long ago and lives every day by the secret shared by everyone who volunteers: We get back at least as much as we give, usually more.

Thanks very much for all you have done for Sheboygan Senior Community, Jim. We are forever in your debt. Tex Evans would be proud.

Peace!

Paul T.

A Very Important Message...

As I have shared before, I have been working in nursing homes in one way or another for over 30 years. Us health care folk can be a gloomy lot, and I have heard more times than I can count the next horrible wave that was surely going to be the end of long term care...New regulations, more documentation requirements, the dawning of assisted living/home health options, staffing shortages, blah, blah, blah.

I have never bought into this line of thinking because I have always believed that there will always be a place in the health care continuum for those who provide good care to the very sickest and can adapt to the changing market and consumer expectations. Plus, I just don't scare that easily. *Until now.* The proposed cuts to the Medicaid Program have me genuinely worried, not just for SSC and all nursing homes, but for the fundamental social contract that exists with our seniors and their families as they enter into the final phase of life. If what is being proposed becomes law, nursing homes across the land will close. **Period.**

I am all for rooting out waste and inefficiency in government programs and could write a book about the fraud, abuse, and unabashed greed I have witnessed in my tenure as an administrator. I find it abhorrent when I encounter the small sliver of our population who are able bodied, but are still fine with living on the fruits of others people's labor. However, what is being proposed is not about that.

What is being proposed are massive spending cuts, just as simple demographics illustrate that the need for senior care for the sickest and oldest and often times poorest among us, is about to explode. It is entirely reasonable to expect that we will revert to the times when our parents and grandparents move in with their children and grandchildren as it was in this country long ago. But what has changed is that average life expectancy has gotten dramatically longer. So, if and when most nursing homes close, we can predict that people in their late 60s and 70s will be caring for their parents who are in their 80s and 90s. Why no one is talking about this, I haven't a clue, but I do want to point it out to my small SSC audience.

Again, to me this has nothing to do with liberal vs conservative, Republican vs Democrat. Reasonable people can have very different takes about how to keep health care costs from consuming our entire national budget and I would be the first to say that we need to take many steps ASAP. But controlling health care costs is not the same as massive cuts to Medicaid while giving enormous tax cuts to the very fortunate few among us who are literally set for life. I do want to commend Senator Ron Johnson, who I do not often agree with, who thus far has taken a strong, measured stand against these cuts. Kudos, Senator Johnson, for looking out for the future of our country, I am proud that you are from Wisconsin.

It can be difficult to feel like we have a voice in such an important debate. So if you have a loved one at SSC, or love someone who is getting old, or plan on getting old yourself and are not a multi-millionaire, I urge you to take action by calling Senators Johnson and Baldwin. The following framework was provided by Leading Age, who represents non-profit senior providers:

Steps for calling your lawmakers

- Dial this **toll-free number: 866-460-6413**. You will be prompted to enter your zip code to get connected to your Senators. Feel free to use the sample script below.
- Leave a message with the staff person who answers the phone.
- **After talking with the staff person, do not hang up. Allow the staff person to hang up, and the automated system will then connect you to your other Senator.**

Sample phone script

"My name is ___ and I am a constituent. I am calling to urge the Senator to oppose health care legislation that would fundamentally change Medicaid's financing structure. I oppose per capita caps and block grants because they would hurt people and families who need long-term services and supports. 70% of people who turn 75 will, at some point, need long-term services and supports, and Medicaid is the largest payer. Please oppose cutting Medicaid when our senior population is rapidly growing."

Please take time as soon as you read this to call today. We can't always do much, but we should always do what we can. -pt



Resident Spotlight Jeannette Rilling Willow Lane

5 foot 2, eyes of blue, name that lady who dances too, has anybody seen my gal? We'd like to introduce you to our very own, Jeannette Rilling. Because of Jeannette's petite stature, her nickname quickly became "Tiny" to most of her friends and relatives. She was born in Boscobel, Wisconsin, a city about 75 miles west of Madison, with a population of 2,000 back then, and only 3,100 now. Jeannette had one brother Charles and they lived on a dairy farm for most of their childhood. Because much of the work was done by hired help, Jeannette spent most of her time doing household chores like: cleaning, scrubbing floors, polishing furniture and preparing a home cooked meal for her father and the work hands. She admits she did not love that type of work, but once she had a family of her own, she felt very skilled at the tasks at hand. She also spent a lot of time with her grandmother who lived nearby. Her grandmother had quite a passion for reading, and she would take young Jeannette to the library several times a week. Due to Grandma's influence, Jeannette later worked as a librarian at both Cooper and Pigeon River schools.

Jeannette attended Boscobel High School and then pursued higher education at U.W. LaCrosse where her major was Physical Education. College students in the 1940's would meet one another at mixers on campus. Camp McCoy was nearby, so many nights the military band of Camp McCoy would play at the dances. In fact, Jeannette met her future husband at one of those mixers. They never "went steady," but their connection lingered on for years. Henry (Tink) Rilling was also a Physical Education major. His father gave him the nickname "Tink" because his favorite baseball player at the time was Joe Tinker, an outstanding short stop for the Chicago Cubs. Henry's dad's dream was that one day his son would be playing baseball at the professional level. Even though Tink did not have the opportunity to play professional ball, he was hired by the Chicago Cubs as the Athletic Trainer just before the War began. Tink served his country in World War II for 3 years. Once the war ended, Tink was hired at Sheboygan North High school as their Physical Education teacher. At the very same time, Jeannette was working as the Physical Education teacher at five various elementary schools in the area. They happened to meet up once again at a local restaurant, and the rest is history.

Jeannette and Tink were married in April 1948 and had their first daughter Nan just one year later. While Nan was still a baby, Lakeland College contacted Jeannette to offer her a job as a collegiate Physical Education teacher. It was only two afternoons a week, so she didn't hesitate to accept their offer. About 14 years later, baby Craig came along and their family grew in size. Craig and his wife have blessed them with three grandchildren.

When asked what Jeannette loves to do for fun, she immediately mentioned her love to travel. Her husband refused to step foot on an airplane, so she became a member of the local bank's Travel Club back in the 1950's-1960's. This gave her opportunities to see the world. Her travels include Australia, Russia, Europe, South America and the Caribbean. She loves to dance too! When she and her husband were younger, they both belonged to the Sheboygan Dance Club. It would include a lovely dinner and dance held at the Pine Hills Golf Resort. They would have dance programs to follow which encouraged them to change partners with each new dance type. It was a way to meet new people and connect to other young couples. It was a classy event with live orchestra music.

What is on Jeannette's bucket list? Well, she is quite satisfied with all her memories of traveling the world, and knowing her family is happy and healthy. It's the relationships we build and the memories we hold that bring happiness. Her life today in 2017 is just as fulfilling. Sheboygan Senior Community has brought her great friendships, a caring staff and an atmosphere colored by nature and full of activity. She may be small in stature, BUT has a heart larger than life. Thank you, Jeannette, for sharing your beautiful memories with us... and the rest of you, drop and give her 50 push-ups ☺.

Welcome to the TEAM

- 6/7/17 Mary Klueck – Residential Aide
- 6/7/17 Beth Koch – LPN
- 6/15/17 Zach Jarentowski – Dining Services
- 6/15/17 Brooke Swearingen – Dining Services
- 6/15/17 Ashley Swihart – Dining Services
- 6/15/17 Makenzie Schlafke – Dining Services
- 6/19/17 Jill Hand – RN, Staff Development
- 6/29/17 Erin Hameister – LPN
- 6/29/17 Maddie Peterson – Dining Services



Staff Spotlight – Deb Kramer

Deb Kramer, LPN in our Maple Creek household, was born and raised in Howards Grove, WI with one brother. Deb spent a lot of her childhood visiting her grandmother in Crystal Falls, MI. Whenever she visited her grandparents, there would be a collection of bottles waiting for her to cash in. She recalls taking leisurely walks to the candy store to cash in her empty Coke bottles and soda cans.

Deb graduated from Howards Grove High School in 1989. During her teen years, she worked as a dishwasher and a waitress at the local Log Cabin Restaurant. After graduation, she accepted a job at Kohler Company as secretary of the Mill Room, then the main office secretary in the Clock Tower, and then finally in the Factory Distribution Center in the Brass Packing division. Deb remembers filling a tub order for Pamela Anderson, orders for the Trump Tower in Chicago and also plumbing fixtures for the new Miller Park.

When Kohler announced massive layoffs in 2009, they offered to pay for her to obtain her nursing degree at NWTC in Green Bay. With a son to support and care for, a job working as an LPN would be a blessing. She could still have time to spend with Mason on alternate weekends and evenings. Her first nursing job was at Rocky Knoll, but when she heard SSC was hiring LPN's she jumped at the chance to apply. When Brent called her with a response, he said, "I have bad news and I have good news, which do you want to hear first?" She said, "the bad news..." Brent said there wasn't any bad news at all; just that she was being offered a full time LPN position. WOW, Deb was so excited. She said that not only Brent, but Paul, Lisa and the entire staff made her feel so welcomed and she always feels that her voice and efforts are appreciated.

In addition to having a heart of gold for the senior population, she loves animals too! Shepherds and poodles and fish, oh my! Deb has a German Shepherd named Brody, a rescue Toy Poodle, Bailey, two cats and some fish. Plus, Deb and Mason both volunteer at Amazing Grace in Elkhart Lake feeding, grooming and loving on rescued horses. It is a dream come true; she loves horses but could never afford, or be able to house one. She says it is rewarding to see them improve in health and then one day be adopted by a loving owner.

Deb's bucket list is to swim with the dolphins with her son Mason. She loves to care for the residents just like she would care for her own grandma. "The management staff is amazing and my co-workers are true friends that give me strength to go on each day. Thank you Sheboygan Senior Community!!" No, Deb, we all thank you!



We'd like to extend the biggest, most appreciative **THANK YOU** to the *first* donors to our apple orchard. Your support means the world to us, and we couldn't continue living out our mission of taking care of Sheboygan's seniors without you. So, from the bottom of our hearts, thank you to the **Hoffman Family, Donna Hoffman, Tara Holzem & Taylor Diehl and Mike Basch.**



The Hoffman family: Kevin, Mark, Perry and Alice stand in The Orchard with Executive Director, Paul Treffert and Director of Marketing and Community Relations, Dana Elmzen

If you're interested in sponsoring an apple tree in The Orchard, please contact Dana Elmzen at (920) 458-2137 x710 or by email delmzen@retiresheboygan.com for more information.