

Quill of the Hill

Volume 45

Issue 9

September 2010

Saint Simeon's Celebrates the First Anniversary of the Opening of the Dotson Family Assisted Living Center with the Bistro Bash

On Wednesday, August 18, Residents, families and friends of Saint Simeon's marked the one year anniversary of the opening of the Assisted Living & Wellness Centers with the "Bistro Bash."

This was the perfect occasion to unveil the new sign for the Dotson Family Assisted Living Center. The Trustees of the Saint Simeon's Home and Foundation Boards have chosen this name to recognize Phyllis and George Dotson for their tireless efforts and leadership throughout the capital campaign and construction of the Assisted Living and Wellness Centers.



Following the unveiling everyone was invited to gather in the Deisenroth Bistro for refreshments and entertainment. For this special occasion "Elvis was in the building" singing favorite songs from the 50s. The 50s theme was carried out with the decorations, costumes worn by staff members and the beautiful cake provided by Robin Ballenger.



Residents and guests enjoyed the music, "swing" dancing and great fellowship as our first year in the Dotson Family Assisted Living Center was celebrated!



Western Days 2010 – “Golden Anniversary Gusher!” Is Here!

We have received a tremendous response to our Western Days appeal and we are on pace to have record setting event on Tuesday, September 14, 2010. Please join us for a great time celebrating the Saint Simeon’s 50th Anniversary with all net proceeds helping provide the best care possible for the Residents!



We have received wonderful donations from area businesses and friends for the auctions. To review the Live Auction items and packages and to preview and bid on our Silent Auction items, go to www.saintsimeons.org and from the Home page click on the “Western Days Registration and On-Line Auction” link. To see the detailed description for each item and to bid on the Silent Auction items you must “Sign-In.”

The volunteers are working hard to make the event a success and fun for all the guests. Over 85 bottles of very nice wines have been donated by Advisory and Patron Committee members. For \$20 per “pull,” guests will pull a bottle of wine with values ranging from \$15 to over \$100. And, the General Store will feature many hand sewn items by Resident Marie Millar and homemade goodies by employees.

Lucy Barker and several other volunteers are selling raffle tickets for a \$2,500 Utica Square Shopping Spree. If you have not purchased your raffle tickets yet you can do so by calling or emailing Julie Ward at (918) 794-1977 or jward@saintsimeons.org. The drawing will be held at Western Days. We would love for you to be there but your presence is not required to win the raffle.

**JOIN US for Western Days 2010
Tuesday, September 14, 2010
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Central Park Hall at EXPO Square**

If you are able to help in any way or have questions, please contact Julie Ward, Donor Relations Coordinator for the Saint Simeon’s Foundation, at (918) 794-1977 or jward@saintsimeons.org or Stephen Mason at (918) 794-1937 or smason@saintsimeons.org.

Memory Center Family Support Group

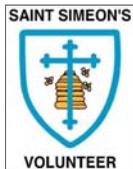


Thursday, September 16 at 2:30 p.m.
Administrative Conference Room

*The group is led by Chris Gruszeczki,
Life Enrichment Director.*

Red Cross Blood Dive

Sixteen Saint Simeon’s & Morrison’s employees participated in the quarterly Red Cross Blood Drive held in the Smith Conference Center on August 23. Thanks to all who participated in giving the gift of life!



Join Us for the September Auxiliary Meeting! Note Change of Meeting Date for September!

Since the regularly scheduled date for the Auxiliary is the same day as Western Days, the meeting will be held:

Tuesday, September 21, 1:00 p.m. Smith Conference Center

All Residents, Family Members & Friends of Saint Simeon's are welcome to join the Auxiliary. Come to the meeting and learn about our programs & activities!

Jonathan Kincaid Receives Morrison's "People First Team Member of the Year" Award



Jonathan Kincaid (second from left) with (l-r) Kashif Khan (Morrison); Ashwin Shrinivas, Morrison Dining Services Director at Saint Simeon's; and Jared Flayer (Morrison)

Jonathan Kincaid was Saint Simeon's Star Employee for May. He was nominated for his continued contributions at Saint Simeon's. Jonathan began as a utility worker, but has always been willing to help with production and dining room service when needed. On two occasions, he took on the role of the breakfast cook.

For one of these 'above and beyond' occasions, Jonathan was nominated by Morrison for its "Be A Star" Award. On Christmas Day 2009 when Tulsa experienced one of its worst snowstorms, Jonathan was among the first employees to arrive at Saint Simeon's. He was scheduled as the dishwasher that day, but when he realized that no one from the production crew had made

it in, he started cooking so that the Residents would have their Christmas breakfast on time. When the scheduled cooks arrived, Jonathan headed to the dining rooms to help serve since they were shorthanded as well. After cooking and serving, he completed his normal duties with a smile on his face, modestly saying that he just did what needed to be done.

Jonathan received Morrison's "Be A Star" award for the quarter. There are approximately 150 "Be A Star" winners throughout the year who are then considered for the annual "People First Team Member of the Year" Award. Morrison recognizes one person in each region as its "People First Team Member of the Year." In our region, there are 50 accounts, in over 11 states and Jonathan received that recognition this year!

Jonathan will now be entered in Morrison's National Award Circle. IF selected, Jonathan will receive an all-expense-paid trip to Orlando, Florida, to attend the awards ceremony. Morrison offers these programs to encourage and recognize its employees who make a difference in the Residents' lives. Congratulations, Jonathan – you are truly an asset to the dining services team and to Saint Simeon's!

Getting to Know: Josh Longnecker

Josh is a hero. On the way home after work, he saw a burning car and pulled over to help. The driver was having a seizure and he provided care for her at the curb until he was sure she was okay. He even waited until the ambulance got there to leave. This was during all the snow on Christmas Eve! Josh also is a hero at work. When we were having all that bad weather, he made sure that all the snow was scraped off all the windows of cars belonging to every woman who worked in the HCC so that we would be safe driving home. This past weekend Josh assisted a Resident in another area who became distressed while eating. Josh has been a great addition to Saint Simeon's and the Health Care Center Nursing Team.



Josh is a Registered Nurse/Charge Nurse in the Health Care Center working the first shift. “I came here in December 2009. Before that I worked at Franciscan Villa for a little over seven years. That was where I “grew up” in nursing. I started as a Certified Nurse Aide (CNA), became a Certified Medical Aide (CMA), then Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) and, finally, a Registered Nurse (RN).”

“I was born in Tulsa but have lived several other places. My mom is a nurse and my dad is an accountant. My mom became interested in the island of American Samoa after reading about it in magazines. We moved there in 1988 and she worked as a nurse in Labor and Delivery at a hospital until 1990. We came back to the states and she got her training as a midwife, moved back there in 1995 and they now live in American Samoa where my mom is a midwife.”

“My first job out of high school was ‘Cart Transport Engineer Specialist.’ Not sure what that is? I was a cart pusher at Wal-Mart! As I got older I developed more discipline, realized the importance of having an education and got my GED. I became a trained Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). My plan was to get on with the Tulsa Fire Department but they had a hiring freeze in place, so I became a CNA and planned to just work six months until the hiring freeze was over. However, I found that I really enjoyed working with elderly people. What I like about long-term care facilities, as compared to hospitals, is being able to take care of the same Residents every day. You build relationships with them and their families.”

“My wife, Candice, is also an RN. She works for St. John’s Hospice. Our son, Caleb, doesn’t have a job yet if anyone knows of something - he’s three years old. We are expecting our second child (due Jan 15th) and will know in a couple of weeks whether it is a boy or a girl.”

“We are active members of Freewill Baptist Church in Skiatook where I sometimes (when I have more Sundays off) teach an adult Sunday School Class. I read the Bible daily. I also love to spend time with my family – we enjoy our above ground pool and I like to go eat anywhere but seafood. I exercise some, lifting weights and jogging but I’m not real disciplined. Growing up our mom made us three boys run three miles a day – probably to wear us out! Once when my brother was 13 years old, he ran 37 miles across Samoa. I was just eight years old but ran 25 miles that day. Our mom drove the car...”

“Probably not too many people have gone swimming with sharks, but I have. In Samoa most of the beaches were pretty dirty, but once I managed to find one that was really clean and proceeded to swim there. Later I found out that the Tuna Factory used that area to dump their old tuna and most people knew that lots of sharks congregated there. Fortunately for me, either the sharks had recently eaten or I wasn’t as appealing as tuna!”

“Someday I think that I would like to own my own business, something in the health field; but for now, I am very grateful to have found Saint Simeon’s and really enjoy my work here.”



Tom and Ruth Freeman visited the Houston Museum of Natural Science in July. They had the opportunity to see an amazing plant – the **Corpse Flower**. No, that's not a typo. That is what the plant is called. Well, actually this particular Corpse Flower is called Lois. The plant was preparing to bloom for the first time in seven years and then would release its stench (compared to rotting bodies) for an expected three days.

The Corpse Flower is native to Indonesia and Lois will be only the 29th to bloom in the United States in recorded history. Thousands of visitors lined up to watch the flower gradually unfold. Did I mention that this plant and flower are five feet tall! It didn't bloom while the Freemans were there but the museum set up a live 24 hour webcam and we were able to watch it slowly unfold over several days without needing to hold our noses. Truly an amazing phenomenon.

We have some new birds in our Aviaries! New baby birds in the **Memory Center Aviary** and new varieties of birds in the **Ice Cream Parlor Aviary**. The new varieties of birds are a pair of **Fire Finches** and a pair of **Spice Finches** and a single **male African Paradise Whydah**. The Whydah is very striking with his black and white body, red spot on his head, and impressively long black tail – several times longer than his body. Like our peacocks he will lose his long tail for half the year so you better go see him soon.



The Spice Finches have nutmeg brown heads, backs and tails and beautiful scaling on their chests and underbellies. The male and female look identical. It will be obvious which birds are the tiny Fire Finches (because of their red hue) and the male is easily distinguished from the female because he has more red on his body. These birds join the **Diamond Doves** and **Green Singing Finches** in the Ice Cream Parlor Aviary.

The Memory Center Aviary is home to **Diamond Doves, Zebra Finches, Green Singing Finches, Silverbills and Shafttails**. These birds are all good parents and have hatched numbers of babies. We just had our quarterly visit from Living Design and they take away all the babies or the aviary would get too crowded. But we already have more! Look for the new baby dove, baby Shafttails, and the newest chick, a baby Zebra Finch.



Art Rubin has had a **Lemon Tree** for years. He keeps it on his patio during the summer and brings it inside to the Crossroads Dining Room for the winter. Big beautiful lemons! **Teresa Reno** picked one and not only made him a glass of lemonade from his own lemon tree but was able to give a glass to four of his neighbors. There are several more lemons on there that are not yet ripe but we surely have plenty of more lemonade weather!

The Chaplain's Chat *by Fr. Bill Holly*

Dear Residents, Families, and Friends of Saint Simeon's,



When I was in Junior High (that's what we used to call Middle School back in the olden days) and in High School, I learned a lot about the word "stereotype." It was the late '60s and early '70s and it was a very tumultuous time. Our country was sharply divided on issues of war, race, economy, and politics. The President was Satan's right hand to some and God's right hand to others. Congress was split along party lines. The newspapers and television broadcasts were filled with reports of U.S. casualties every day. Soldiers were coming home battered and maimed. U.S. citizens actually took arms against their own country in acts of terrorism.

The rest of the world was in the same shape. The Russians were always meddling by giving aid and support to countries with which we were in conflict. China loomed in the background as the next great threat to our American way of life. The Middle East was a conflicted mess because of the hatred many of the surrounding countries had for Israel and their treatment of the Palestinians. Iran's repressive government was extinguishing all dissent. Many African countries were in states of civil war. People were crossing our border with Mexico and coming into the U.S. illegally.

So what does all this have to do with the word, "stereotype?" Well, back then, our leaders and citizens got into a lot of verbal escalations. In trying to make their own point, they would apply harmful descriptions to whole groups of people. They would take something that they didn't like about some members of a group and apply that to the whole group, regardless of the fact that it just wasn't true. It was a lot easier to dislike a whole group of people if you could just make them all the same and all equally undesirable. This practice was called stereotyping and it was applied to ethnic groups, political groups, groups formed around issues of religion, or any grouping of people thought to be different. It was an intentional effort to NOT understand others.

So, a few brave souls saw this happening and thought that perhaps that was not really a good activity for our country to engage in. Education was the key out of this mess, they thought. Turns out, they were right. I began to be educated as to what a stereotype was, and then to actually question whether or not it was true. I, and most everyone really wanting to understand, discovered that stereotypes are never true. People are just different – sort of like snowflakes. I learned that questioning stereotypes is critically important. If we don't, we can be herded into a path not unlike that taken in Nazi Germany. By assigning stereotypes to a group of people, we give ourselves permission to do *anything* to them – and we will.

Soon, our generation was on the road to listening and seeking to understand. We learned to respectfully disagree with one another at times, and at the end of the day, still be friends. The rhetoric became kinder and gentler. We still had Republicans and Democrats, we just didn't have to call them fascists and communists anymore. We stopped using racial or ethnic slurs and began to see commonalities among ourselves. Our differences we began to celebrate.

As I grow in age and, hopefully, in wisdom, I am becoming more and more aware that it's not so much new things I need to learn; it's actually some of the old forgotten lessons I simply need to bring back into my life.



God's Blessings to you,
Fr. Bill Holly+

Veterans on Motorcycles Visit Saint Simeon's

Members of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association visited Saint Simeon's Residents and brought new clothing and toiletries donated by Association members and the Blue Star Mothers. Association members are veterans of the Viet Nam War and the two Iraq wars. They support other Vets by visiting nursing homes in the Tulsa area. It was a moving experience for all the Vets from inside and outside the Home!



International Housekeeping Week September 12 -18



*We Appreciate our
Saint Simeon's Housekeeping Team!*

Welcome to Those Who Have Joined Our Family!



*Reva Butcher
John Griffin
Emily Jackson
Margaret Volk
Kennith James*



OUR SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS!!

9/01 *Helene Blust*
9/05 *Joyce Bizjack*
9/06 *Jack Halchak*
9/06 *Lillian Riddle*
9/10 *Evelyn Williams*
9/14 *Millie Brown*
9/14 *Kennith James*
9/18 *Richard Felker*
9/27 *Jeanette Bolch*
9/27 *Dorothy Clary*

We Remember in Our Prayers Those Who Have Departed this Life



*Martha Cole (former Resident)
Mildred Kline
Betty Payne
Audrey Ray
Margery Render
Lucille Stephens
Mary Wheeler*



Residents' Pre-Western Days Party



**Thursday,
September 2, 2010**

**10:00 a.m. Round-Up
in the Common Room
Fun, Food, Games, & Prizes**

Noon Meal

**A special western-style meal
with all the fixing's**

**2:30 p.m. Western Days Gala
in the Common Room
Special Entertainment by
Janet Rutland**

**All Residents, Families & Friends
are invited**

**Our thanks to Robin Ballenger
for generously underwriting
this event**

**&
Elaine Hanner, Event Chair**

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