A GARDEN OF JOY

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Family Heirloom Spans 5 Generations

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Plus: Mark Your Calendar!

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Dear Friends,

My favorite time of year has arrived. Early summer is just the best and there is no better place to enjoy it than Saint Simeon’s. Residents are taking advantage of daylight savings time with strolls in Eckel Park after dinner. Auxiliary members have packed our social calendars. It is a happily busy time. Among the plans, we will be celebrating Mother’s Day and our Treasures newsletter features stories from several notable mothers at Saint Simeon’s.

Every day at Saint Simeon’s, I have the opportunity to see mothers and their children. The love is palpable. Since I am a new mother myself, many people are sharing special motherhood stories with me. It’s the details that make their stories fascinating.

For example, a Trustee shared with me her mother kept spectacularly organized ledgers, by hand, and she had a unique way of registering numbers. The Trustee shared when she jots down a phone number, she finds herself replicating her mother’s precise penmanship.

At this time of year, I always think about my mother packing up her blue station wagon full of kids to go to the pool. She had a big, Land’s End canvas bag with “Dalton Gang” embroidered on it, Dalton being our last name, and it carried everything you could possibly need for a day in the sun. The smell of Clinique’s sunscreen immediately conjures memories of poolside days with my mom leading our little gang.

So often, a family member will share something special about their parent. A shared accomplishment, unique travel experience, particular manner, gives us such special insight into a personality. It’s the details, though, that really makes my colleagues so good at their jobs, they remember who prefers yellow flowers, who likes white sheets, who goes for midmorning walks; the details.

I hope this Mother’s Day meets you with favorite thoughts, the details, of your own mother. May the first part of summer, arguably the very best time of year, greet you with all the season has to offer.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Blair
Executive Director
Saint Simeon’s Foundation
A Message from our President & CEO

Lindsay Hurley Fick

On the cover of this issue of Ambiance, you’ll see Mrs. Marilyn Baker and her two daughters, Reveille Clausing and Debbie Baker. Marilyn has been a Resident of Saint Simeon’s for four years and came to Saint Simeon’s when her husband, the late Dr. Paul J. Baker, was a Resident. Debbie, Reveille, and their brother, Dr. Ben Baker, said their mother has always been positive, uplifting, generous, and a woman of enormous talent. “She always makes the best of every season of life,” Debbie said. “She’s never been negative.”

Marilynn (known to many as “Buddy”) enjoys all of the social activities Saint Simeon’s has to offer, including outings, Happy Hour, and the Culinary Club. According to her daughters, her favorite activity is undoubtedly Bingo, and she has a vast collection of Bingo prizes to prove it!

And then seven years ago, I became a grandmother! Oh my goodness – there simply isn’t anything better!

Lindsay Hurley Fick, President/CEO
Saint Simeon’s

This issue of Ambiance is arriving at your home just before Mother’s Day. To all the mothers that read this issue, I hope we’re the first to say, “Happy Mother’s Day!”

Saint Simeon’s is replete with amazing mothers – Resident mothers, employee mothers and even our peahen mothers! In fact, as I write this, I’m told that our peahens have begun to nest. Within the month, there will be peachicks following their mother peahens throughout the courtyards.

One of the privileges of being at Saint Simeon’s is getting to know and growing to love the mothers who call Saint Simeon’s home. The same holds true for their families.
“Friends of Saint Simeon’s”
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- Mr. and Mrs. Richard T. Garren
- Mary C. Gilliland Trust
- Martha Grant Trust
- Ms. Chris Gruszczek
- Estate of Ada E. Harper
- Mr. and Mrs. James D. Harvey*
- Mr. James M. Hewgley, Jr.*
- Ms. Lara P. Hill*
- Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hirsch
- Ms. Gloria H. Hollis
- Estate of E. M. Hunt
- Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Jezeck
- Estate of Audie B. Jones
- Mrs. Bette L. Jones
- Estate of D. Kirk
- Mr. and Mrs. Shawn Lawhorn
- Estate of T. S. Loffland
- Ms. Margabel Lund*
- Mr. and Mrs. Stephen F. Mason
- Gladys F. McGrady Trust
- Ms. Vivian McNamee*
- Ms. Anna T. Messimer*
- Mr. Robert C. Millspaugh, Jr.*
- Mrs. Millie Millspaugh
- Estate of Pauline S. Mosier
- Estate of Hilide S. Niles
- The Rev. Dr. and Mrs. John R. Norris
- Mrs. Frances W. O’Hornett
- Estate of Kathleen C. Parrott
- Ms. Mary S. Paice*
- Estate of Elinor G. Phillips
- The Rev. Canon John C. Powers
- Ms. Nancy B. Seay*
- Ms. Evelyn Sharp*
- E. P. Shelton Estate
- Fleur D. Sigmon Trust
- Estate of Clementine Sittel
- Mr. Edward C. Sloan Trust
- Mr. William S. Smith
- Estate of Edna Stanley
- Mr. John Sullivan*
- Ms. Jean N. Tate
- Estate of Catherine M. Thack
- Mae E. Vaiden Estate
- Charles & Marion Weber Foundation
- Mr. Arthur Whitt*
- Ms. Virginia Zimmerman*
- **Deceased**

In-Kind Donors
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Mrs. Roberta Brockman
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Ms. Mary E. Dotson
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Mrs. Allene G. Hart
Mr. and Mrs. William Hinkle
Mrs. Mary E. Hitman
Mrs. Jean King
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Mr. Robert E. Krattof
Mrs. Patricia W. Lohman
Mr. and Mrs. Ron MacLeod
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Newman
Mrs. Teresa Reno
Ms. Gloria M. Scott
Mrs. Elizabeth K. Turnbull
Mr. and Mrs. Harold E. Welch, Sr.
By Carolyn Blair, Foundation Executive Director

Merrill Tyler was raised by a remarkable mother, Barbara Kelham. Mrs. Kelham lived at Saint Simeon's for three years before she passed away in May of 2011. Merrill was then left with a special task – creating a unique way to memorialize her mother to showcase her love of gardens and the joy they bring to so many of us.

Barbara Kelham was born in Shanghai, China to English parents. She was educated partly in Shanghai and subsequently in England. When her father retired from his post as City Analyst in Shanghai, the family returned to England.

During the early period of World War II, Barbara served as a V.A.D. (Voluntary Aid Detachment) attached to the British Red Cross at the Victoria Cottage Hospital, which became well known for their specialized burn treatments for airmen. She earned her qualification as an X-ray technician at the Middlesex Hospital, a teaching hospital in London, where she met Geoffrey Kelham during his radiology residency. Married in November 1942, Geoffrey served with the Royal Army Medical Corps in North Africa and Europe. Barbara stayed in London enduring the bombing of the London Blitz. When the war ended they departed for Nairobi, Kenya, East Africa, and established Geoffrey’s radiology private practice.

In 1965, political and economic uncertainty led the Kelhams to return to England, North Devonshire, where Geoffrey was accepted into the British National Health Service. Barbara volunteered with Saint John’s Ambulance Organization, offering services similar to the American Red Cross.

Encouraged by friends living in Dallas, Texas, the Kelhams made the decision to immigrate to the United States. Geoffrey obtained his American Board of Radiology certification and Barbara worked at Baylor Hospital. In the mid 1970’s they moved to Lake Hudson near Pryor, Oklahoma.

Living in a house designed by their son, Richard, “Treetops,” named for the Kenya treetop game lodge, became their home for many years. Barbara was an avid tennis player, Medical Auxiliary volunteer, and member of Saint Martin of Tours’ Episcopal Church. Geoffrey died in 1981. Barbara married Dr. James Murphree in 1989, and they remained in “Treetops,” overlooking Lake Hudson until they both moved to Saint Simeon’s in 2008.

Much in the way Barbara enjoyed the panorama of Lake Hudson from her unique Treetops, she likewise enjoyed Saint Simeon’s enchanting views. Overlooking Reflections Courtyard from her window in the Healthcare Center, Barbara saw birds, gardens, and a fountain. When considering a special way to pay tribute to her mother, a woman who lived such a spectacular, international life, her daughter decided to make a special gift renovating the garden.

Renovation is underway complete with elevated beds with distinctive natural rock walls, a summer seasonal bed, and naturally, an English cutting garden.

The Barbara Kelham Courtyard Renovation is a stunning example of how a restricted gift can create a tangible tribute. Should you be interested in creating a special expression of generosity, please contact Carolyn Blair, Saint Simeon’s Foundation Executive Director, at (918) 794-1937 or cblair@saintsimeons.org.

A garden isn’t meant to be useful. It’s for joy.
—Rumer Godden
A family heirloom can be found in many different forms: a gold locket, an antique armoire, a set of crystal wedding china. Each family has its own set of unique traditions that contribute to the value and marvelous nature of the family heirlooms tucked away in jewelry boxes and china cabinets.

Saint Simeon's Resident Marie Millar has enjoyed the tradition a family heirloom holds – only her family heirloom is not something that is hidden in a drawer. Marie's family heirloom is a christening gown that has spanned five generations and is between 105 to 112 years old. The gown, which was likely worn by Marie's mother or one of her mother's four sisters during their christening, has been passed down through five generations. Most recently, the gown was worn by Marie's 10-month old great-grandson Noah.

In recent years, the gown has adorned many of Marie's grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. However, during one era of her family history, the gown's existence was a mystery. In fact, neither Marie nor any of her siblings were christened in the gown. Fortunately, when Marie's son Jim was born, the gown came out of its hiding place (though no one can quite remember where it was hiding!). Though Jim was not christened in the gown, he had his photo taken wearing the gown when he was 6 weeks old. When Jim's daughter Rebecca (Marie's granddaughter) was born, Rebecca's mother Cindy remembered seeing baby pictures of her husband wearing the gown. Cindy mentioned it would be nice to have their daughter christened in the gown, so Rebecca was christened in the heirloom gown at 5 weeks old.

Marie's grandson Jim was also christened in the gown when he was 6 weeks old. Before his christening, Martin, Jim's older brother, was upset that Jim was going to be in a dress. Ironically, it seems that the minister was also opposed to the idea of a boy wearing a dress.
because during the christening, the minister swooped up the dress so that the congregation couldn’t see it!

The christening gown has made its way all over North America. Marie is originally from Waterford, Ontario, halfway between Detroit and Toronto. Two of her sisters and their families still reside in that area, which means the dress is often shipped between Canada and the U.S. Marie recently had possession of the dress at Saint Simeon’s, where she starched, washed, and ironed it before sending it to Kansas City for the christening of her great-grandson Noah. While the dress was hanging in Marie’s room in the Dotson Assisted Living Center, Carolyn Blair, Executive Director of the Saint Simeon’s Foundation, had a chance to admire the family heirloom.

After visiting with Marie about the dress, Carolyn coined Marie her family’s “treasure keeper.” “In every fortunate family, there is the ‘treasure keeper’ – the one who keeps and adds to the family scrapbook, the one who makes sure the Christmas angel is adequately wrapped, the one who makes sure the heirloom quilt is safe from the elements. Marie Millar is her family’s treasure keeper, and among their treasures is a fifth generation christening gown,” Carolyn said.

The process of restoring the treasured gown can be quite extensive. Before Marie’s granddaughter Rebecca was christened, the dress was “as yellow as a manila envelope,” Marie said. After Marie had carefully bleached the dress and laid it out in snow, the dress became remarkably whiter.

Marie’s dedication to the art of needlecraft can be witnessed not only through her restoring the treasured Millar/Smith family heirloom gown, but also through her dedication to sewing on behalf of projects for Saint Simeon’s and Western Days. Over the past 9 years, Marie has sold thousands of dollars’ worth of her handmade items at the Western Days’ General Store, including bracelets and “yo-yo” dolls made by Marie and other members of the “Stitch in Time” group. In addition, Marie makes special bandannas for Simone, Saint Simeon’s Golden Retriever, to wear. For these reasons and more, Saint Simeon’s is delighted to honor Marie Millar as the “Spirit of the West” Recipient for Western Days 2013, which will be held Tuesday, September 10, 2013 at Expo Square’s Central Park Hall.
Saint Simeon’s hosted a “Doggone Birthday Party” for our Chief Executive Cuddler, Simone, on April 2 in the Common Room. Golden Retriever Simone II is now four years old! Her birthday wish was to help other dogs find homes, so three local dog rescue groups, Tulsa SPCA, PALs (Pet Adoption League) and STAR (Sandite Team Animal Rescue), were invited and brought seven adorable, adoptable young dogs. CNA Jennifer Armstrong took home Sugar Ray from STAR. Several other people wrote down the name of a dog they were interested in and the contact information so another “forever” home could still happen for one of these special dogs.

With almost 160 of Simone’s “closest friends” in attendance, it was quite a party. As always, Simone was very congenial to visitors and residents – including the guest dogs. Special guests included a group from Life Senior Services’ Adult Day Services 31st & Sheridan location. Grace Burke, their director, presented Simone with a unique gift – a small antler. Simone loves it! Simone really appreciated all the gifts (dog treats, toys, bandanas and cards, some bought and some hand-made). One of her biggest fans, Hanna (her Uncle is Resident Ford Bankston) wrote in Simone’s birthday card, “Simone, I love to come and visit and pet you. You truly are a cool dog and will rock the Golden Retriever World.”

Simone was also gifted a beautiful pink/green leather braided leash from her special friend, Patty Flint (and Robin Ballinger). Patty has been teaching Simone a new command, “Snuggle In.” CMA/ CNA Christine Combs made a wooden facsimile of Simone using her jigsaw. Rick Wells at Channel 6 covered the party. If you missed his amusing segment on the 6:00 news, it is posted on Simone’s Facebook at facebook.com/simone.saintsimeons. By the way, Simone has nearly 600 friends now on Facebook – are you one of them? Somehow she finds the time between naps to post something almost every day.

The Residents’ Culinary Club prepared a Dog Birthday Cake, which included carrots, peanut butter, and honey, with cream cheese for the icing. Simone found it delicious. The Residents also prepared Canine Cookies for the guest dogs. Both of these recipes are posted on Facebook. Of course, there was also a separate birthday cake and refreshments for the non-canine guests. It wouldn’t be a party without party favors, so everyone went home with a picture postcard of Simone suitable for sending or displaying.

During the party, I, Simone’s “Mom,” shared a little of the history of Simone I and II. Simone I served the Home for almost 13 years, living most of that time with then Director of Nursing, Carla Stokesberry, until Carla’s retirement. She accompanied Carla on rounds throughout the Home every day. Simone I’s ashes are buried beneath the Clayton Coss Chainsaw Sculpture of the two Simones outside the Ice Cream Parlor on the edge of Eckel Park.

Simone I was a gift puppy to Saint Simone’s, but we actively searched out Simone II. Donna Mayotte, Administrative Assistant, researched breeders from Oklahoma thru Missouri and eventually found one of the best in the Green Bay, Wis. area. Criterion for the new puppy was substantial: temperament, health, the desire to want to be with people, and, of course, we wanted her to be beautiful.

It takes a community to raise a dog. Simone II grew up in the home of Unit Clerk, Dara Harris, and attended puppy kindergarten at K9 Manners and More in Broken Arrow. She went on to earn her Canine Good Citizenship Certificate as well as Basic Obedience. After Simone I died, Simone II came to live with me, as had her predecessor. I think everyone in the Saint Simeon’s family can say Simone has turned out to be everything we hoped for!

Be sure and look for Simone on the cover of the May issue of “TulsaPets Magazine”!
Saint Simeon’s Auxiliary Hosts

ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON

By Lindsay Morris,
Marketing Coordinator

Over 100 people, including Auxiliary members, Resident, family, friends, and staff of Saint Simeon’s gathered for the annual Auxiliary Spring Luncheon on April 9. The event is an opportunity for the Saint Simeon’s Auxiliary, which has been serving Saint Simeon’s through volunteerism since 1961, to recruit new members and share its endeavors over the last year.

In 2012, the Auxiliary was reorganized in a way that will allow its members to spend more time with Residents and their families. The Auxiliary has a number of ongoing opportunities for volunteers to become involved at Saint Simeon’s, including field trips, gift shop helper, and assisting at parties and special functions. The Auxiliary also hosts four annual events at Saint Simeon’s – the Spring Luncheon, the Ice Cream Social, the Harvest Moon Festival and Christmas parties. This year’s Spring Luncheon was planned by Brenda Haesloop and Sue Thompson.

All Auxiliary activities and events are made possible through membership dues. Membership is open and begins at $15 annually.

During the Spring Luncheon, the new Auxiliary officers for 2013-2014 were installed. The new Auxiliary President is Elaine Hanner; Vice-President, Brenda Haesloop; Recording Secretary, Kim Tatro-Smith; Corresponding Secretary, Revelle Clausing; and Treasurer, Karen Garren. The Auxiliary took time during the luncheon to thank Trudy Williams, outgoing Auxiliary President, and gifted her with a donation to the Memory Center Courtyard Beautification Project.

Teresa Reno, Activities Coordinator at Saint Simeon’s was one of the luncheon speakers. Teresa shared about the many outings Residents go on, including trips to the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame, the Tulsa Zoo, Tulsa Drillers Games, restaurants, and much more. Volunteers are always needed and welcomed on Resident outings.

Dr. Mary Nole, Director of Saint Simeon’s Wellness Center, also spoke during the luncheon. She shared about how the Auxiliary has donated adaptive exercise equipment for Residents to use. Saint Simeon’s is unique in that almost all Residents, no matter their level of ability, are active in some form of exercise, Mary said. Mary also encouraged volunteers to contact her about helping with the Annual Pool Party, which will be on Wednesday, May 22 from 2 to 5 p.m. Mary can be reached at 918-794-1905.

For more information on becoming an Auxiliary member, contact Debbie Reif at dreif@saintsimeons.org or 918-794-1977.

Mark your Calendar!

ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL
Thursday, May 23 at 7 p.m.
Saint Simeon’s Eckel Park
Join the Auxiliary and Residents for delicious ice cream and live entertainment!

HARVEST MOON FESTIVAL
Sunday, October 27 from 2 to 4 p.m.
A revival of an old tradition started in the 1960s, the Harvest Moon Festival will replace Oktoberfest. A fun family event filled with hay rides, live music, games, and food.

For more information on becoming an Auxiliary member, contact Debbie Reif at dreif@saintsimeons.org or 918-794-1977.
What makes your mother extraordinary?

“My mom taught me about the natural world … Saint Simeon’s provides a place that nurtures one of the most important things I inherited from my mom: Curiosity!”

–Barbara Ann Bartlett of her mother Resident Pat Bartlett (featured in photo)

“She found Saint Simeon’s for me. I love being read to, and she reads to me.”

–Resident Patty Flint of her mother Mrs. Joan Flint

“I think God keeps my mother going because she continues to be a blessing to everyone she comes into contact with.”

–Kevin Read of his mother Resident Ginger Read