YEEHAW! Western Days is just a stone’s throw away!

Western Days 2013: Take Me Back To Tulsa is fast approaching, and Residents, staff, and Western Days Committee members are hard at work. This year, the Foundation is offering a preview of items handmade by Residents. Come by the Foundation Office for a sneak peak of some of the incredible items that will be on sale at the Western Days General Store, including knitted scarves, handmade dolls, quilts, and more.

Western Days will be held Tuesday, Sept. 10 at 6 p.m. at Central Park Hall at Expo Square. Western Days attendees can expect an exciting, Western-themed evening featuring live music from the Tulsa Playboys band, a delicious steak dinner, a silent and live auction, a raffle ticket giveaway for a $2,500 Ulica Square gift card, shopping in the General Store, and more. The live auction will feature tickets for four to the OU/Notre Dame football game in South Bend, Ind., complete with private plane transportation; one week stays at vacation homes in Ruidoso, N.M., Colorado, and Kerrville, Texas; a dinner for 12 cooked and served by local Episcopalian priests, and more.

Tickets start at $75. To purchase your tickets or inquire about the event, please call the Foundation Office at 918-794-1977.

HAPPY GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY. Phyllis & George

Saint Simeon’s surprised longtime friends and patrons, Phyllis and George Dotson, with a 50th Wedding Anniversary party and champagne toast on Aug. 9. Over 100 guests and dozens of Residents flooded into the Dotson Family Assisted Living Center at 1:45 in order to prepare for the big surprise. At 2:00, Phyllis arrived with her friend Margaret Swimmer. However, George had not yet arrived! Director of Facilities Management Tadd Weese tried to delay Phyllis in the parking lot, but she did not want to miss out on the Residents’ Western Days Party, which she thought she was attending!

Phyllis was in for a big surprise when she entered Dotson Family Assisted Living Center and beheld a huge cake, beautiful golden décor, and many of her closest friends and family. Pianist Rick Fortner struck up “Side by Side,” the “Golden” … continued on page 3
“I recently became Crew Leader in Facility Services (Housekeeping). That means I try to make sure everything is running smoothly in our department. Until we are fully staffed, I will also continue to do what I was doing previously. Once all the positions are filled, I will be freed up to work on some special projects that my supervisor, Jaunise Mason, and I have identified. I also am a member of the Employee Council, which means I serve as a sounding board for other employees. I listen to my co-workers and relay that information at our meetings and take information back to them. The Council is also working on updating the Employee Handbook.

I first started working at Saint Simeon’s in the Dietary Department eight years ago. My little sister, Kanisha Jamison, was working here as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and told me there were some openings. I later left and worked as a housekeeper for several years before returning to Saint Simeon’s in May 2012. When I started as a housekeeper, I set goals to achieve, and after six months, became the Training Manager. I helped train the new employees regarding just how Saint Simeon’s should be cleaned. Then I went back and did the same with the past employees. I love my job. I like to keep busy, and it is the kind of job that keeps me on my toes. One of my favorite things is when I finish cleaning a room and the Resident comes in and says they love how clean their room is. It is great to feel appreciated.

I was born in Tulsa and attended William Penn Elementary School, Gilcrease and Monroe
Middle Schools and graduated from McLain Career Academy. My mom, Deborah Jamison, raised us four girls and five boys as a single mom until my little sister, Kanisha’s (baby of the family) dad came into our lives. My mom started as a volunteer at Head Start and then they offered her a job. She became a teacher at work and our teacher at home. When I graduated from McLain, I was in the top eight students out of a class of 144 and was a member of the National Honor Society. I was pregnant my senior year and was six months pregnant when I walked across the stage.

I then went to Tulsa Community College for two and a half years and received a scholarship for secondary education. However, I was not able to continue my education. I needed to support myself (I have had jobs at Popeye’s, Tulsa University, Wal-Mart, Holiday Inn and Hyatt Hotel), and I found it was just too hard to work full-time, go to school and take care of my child all at the same time.

Terrance Lucas and I are raising my son, Quandre, who just turned 9 years old in August and our daughter, Aiyana, who is 3. Quandre is in the third grade in Sand Springs and really loves wrestling.

I like to read, mainly romance novels since I’m a hopeless romantic. I like to go for walks, usually in either Lacy Park or Chamberlin Park. I attend Greater Grace Apostolic Church and was baptized when I turned 20.

I have set goals and priorities for things I want to accomplish and achieved them. One goal I haven’t achieved yet, but I will, is to go back to school and get that degree in Education. I plan to someday be a Reading Teacher.”

“Golden” … continued from page 1

crowd started singing, and much to everyone’s delight, Phyllis jumped right in and danced a two-step! A few minutes later, George made his appearance, and the two were at last united for their special celebration.

Toasts honoring the couple were presented by David Hogan, Jim Hardwick, Lindsay Fick. As a gift to the Dotsons, many guests brought Silent Auction items for Western Days. Foundation Executive Director Carolyn Blair spent months planning the party and doing her best to surprise the guests of honor. Everything went off in true "Phyllis and George" style, and the couple was truly surprised and delighted.

In a letter of gratitude, Phyllis and George expressed their sentiments: "Our memories will last forever as we think of the unexpected presence of our friends among Saint Simeon’s Residents, Staff, Trustees, our St. John’s Episcopal parish, neighbors, long-time friends and our family attending the event. When we think of the words, ‘There are no secrets,’ we were oblivious to the little signs. Our friends, neighbors and family never gave a hint.”
Dear Residents, Families, and Friends of Saint Simeon’s,

I find as I move through this life that blessings are important to me. In fact, you may have noticed that I always end these articles with, “God’s Blessings to you.” In ancient Israel, the blessing a father bestowed upon his eldest son was believed to have important power. It was only given once, and it could very well define you and the rest of your life. In Genesis, we read the story of twins Esau and Jacob. Esau was the first to be born, so he was the eldest. Isaac’s final blessing was to go to Esau, but Jacob, through trickery, deceived his father, and ended up receiving Isaac’s blessing. Once given, it could not be rescinded, nor could it be given in addition to another. When the deceit was discovered, Isaac could only give a different blessing to Esau which was less than stellar.

The courteous “bless you” spoken to someone who sneezes grew out of an earlier belief that when a person sneezed, a demon was expelled. One hurriedly said “bless you” so it couldn’t get back in the person! Of course, we often say “bless you” as more emphatic and perhaps powerful, “thank you” when someone has done something very nice for us. As a priest, I pronounce God’s blessing at the end of services, as people are married, on someone’s birthday, and various times and occasions.

But the kind of blessing I’m most interested in is not so much associated with saying those words. I’m excited when I discover that I have been a blessing. I am truly blessed when someone has been a blessing to me. I say “excited when I discover” because that’s what happens when you’ve been a blessing. It’s not like you can plan to be a blessing. It just happens serendipitously! It’s a surprise. Somehow, you are engaged in life, and God does something special with that to communicate God’s love for another. The message is received and suddenly, you’ve been a blessing! God and you are working in tandem to create something special that you alone couldn’t really have done, no matter how good your intentions might be.

There’s a wonderful hymn that has as the last line of the refrain: “Make me a blessing to someone today.” It’s a beautiful thought and prayer – Lord, make me a blessing. Perhaps that’s how every day should begin. We awaken to find we have another whole day of opportunities ahead of us. We begin by saying to God, “thank you”. We end by saying, “make me a blessing to someone today.”

May you be a blessing,
Fr. Bill Holly †
Crape Myrtle - could there be a more wonderful plant to grow in this area? A plant that thrives on summer heat in full sun and tolerates drought. A plant that blooms for months, unlike dogwoods and redbuds. A plant that will forgive the worse kind of abuse. A plant that can be a ground cover or a bush or a tree.

For the really plant-challenged, Crape Myrtles are virtually all the trees you see currently providing glorious color at Saint Simeon’s, starting with the front gate, continuing at the Cottages, Eckel Park, Administration Circle, Oxley Circle and all the Courtyards. We have Crape Myrtles in various shades of pink, red, lavender, and white.

Crape Myrtles are available in a variety of sizes, from two-foot dwarfs ("ground cover") to 25 to 30 foot trees. If you are considering buying one, try to get a variety that is the best size for your location so you don’t need to keep pruning it to keep it from reaching its normal height. According to the Master Gardeners at the OSU Extension Service, research shows it is a myth that pruning back Crape Myrtles improves flowering. What it does do – at least in the really severe pruning you see many places (sometimes referred to as “Crape Murder”) – is create a tree that looks “chopped off” all winter after it loses its leaves. It is very rare, but can happen, that we have such a severe winter that a Crape Myrtle will die back or someone will just choose to cut one back to the ground. What will it do? Just start growing against the next spring!

When is the best month to plant a Crape Myrtle? Well, September, of course. It is not just a coincidence that we’re talking about them this month.

How many Crape Myrtles do you think are growing at Saint Simeon’s? The answer can be found on page 7.

“Naked Ladies” are growing under several of our Crape Myrtles, as pictured here. Also called “Surprise Lilies” or “Resurrection Lilies,” they are also remarkable plants. In late winter or early spring, clumps of straplike leaves appear. They look somewhat like daffodil leaves, only a little thicker and slightly larger. Then the leaves completely “disappear” as the plant goes dormant until late summer. One day, as if by magic, a bare (hence the name “Naked Lady”) two-foot stalk shoots up to surprise us (hence the name “Surprise Lily”) with clusters of trumpet-shaped, rosy pink flowers. What a wonderful surprise!
Tree of Dreams: Residents wishes fulfilled

By Auxiliary President ELAINE HANNER

The Saint Simeon’s Auxiliary has a fund with the specific purpose of helping make Residents dreams come true! In the last few months, we have received several Tree of Dreams requests and done our best to fulfill those wishes.

Here are just a few examples:

In June, both Jean King and Anne Evans went on trips to Bartlesville, their hometown. Mrs. King was able to visit the columbarium of her late husband at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church and also visit her former home at Green Country Village. Auxiliary member Kim Tatro-Smith, Life Enrichment Staff member Juan Ferrera and Mrs. King then visited Papa John’s pizza for lunch.

Mrs. Evans also enjoyed her time in Bartlesville, especially her visit to the shopping mall. She purchased several tops from CJ Banks, a favorite store where she and Father Evans were very valued customers, and a pair of shoes from American Eagle. She, Kim Tatro-Smith, and Juan Ferrera enjoyed lunch at Midway Café, where everyone knew Mrs. Evans.

Back in April, the Tree of Dreams funded a Men’s Group outing to the Tulsa Drillers Game. The group was able to sit in the ONEOK box and enjoyed a delicious, ballpark-style lunch. Many Residents and staff members even had a chance to mingle with Hornsby, the Drillers’ mascot.

Most recently, Resident Patty Flint had her dream come true. Ms. Flint expressed to Life Enrichment staff member Sandi Uebelhart that her wish was to have lunch with Saint Simeon’s President and CEO, Lindsay Hurley Fick! Mrs. Fick was truly honored when she learned of this sweet request, saying, “I am both touched and thrilled!” Patty, Lindsay, and Patty’s sister, Robin Ballenger, enjoyed a delicious lunch in the Blue Moon Dining Room on Aug. 13.

Other dreams the Auxiliary has helped fund in the past include fishing trips, spa trips, and more. If you have a dream just waiting to be fulfilled, don’t wait any longer! Ask any staff member for a Tree of Dreams request form. The forms are available at any nurses’ station or the Foundation Office.
WELCOME OUR NEW FAMILY MEMBERS

William Cottrell  Patricia Page
Merissa Curley  Dorothy Sachau

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

8/3  Scotty Brainerd
  9/1  Margaret Hinds
  9/5  Joyce Bizjack
  9/10 Evelyn Williams
  9/14 Vernon Stanton
  9/15 Isadore Levine

9/18  Patsy Meyners
  9/20  James Wells
  9/20  Priscilla Worden
  9/22  Ruth Myers
  9/23  Martha Eskridge
  9/23  Robert Snow

September Resident Council Meetings

COTTAGES & 1ST FLOOR DOTSON
ASSISTED LIVING
Tuesday, 9/24, 10:30 – Deisenroth Bistro

2ND FLOOR DOTSON
ASSISTED LIVING
Tuesday, 9/24, 10:30 – Upstairs Dining Room

D-HALL ASSISTED LIVING
Tuesday, 9/24, 1:15 – D-Hall Dining Room

HEALTH CARE CENTER
Thursday, 9/26, 10:30 – Garden View Dining

MEMORY CENTER
Thursday, 9/26, 3:00 – Home 6

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Mildred Brown  Thomas Lasater
Pirkko Lackey  Dorothy Sachau

Would you like to receive the Quill by e-newsletter?
Send an email to lmorris@saintsimeons.org

The Quill is in color when you receive it by email, and it helps reduce postage costs to Saint Simeon’s!

Answer from “Roots N’Shoots Question on page 5: 112 Crape Myrtles are growing at Saint Simeon’s.”
Scarecrow Naming Competition

Saint Simeon’s Residents recently had the chance to name the campus scarecrows! The ballots revealed that Basil is the boy’s name, and Ginger is the girl’s name! Special thanks to Resident Bob Snow for all his hard work on the garden and the naming competition!

Clowning Around

The first week in August was National Clown Week, and staff members celebrated by dressing up as clowns! Life Enrichment staff member Teresa Reno clowned around with Residents all week long!