ARTISTS AMONG US

We have so many talented artists at Saint Simeon’s – many of them have sold paintings, sculptures, and other handiwork and even had their work published in books. On Feb. 18, Saint Simeon’s held the annual Art Show to celebrate these artists.

No Art Show is complete without wine and cheese, so our Life Enrichment Department provided plenty of refreshments. Several Residents and staff members, and some visiting TCC students enjoyed touring the Residents’ work. Residents stood proudly beside their work and explained the inspiration behind it.

One of the artists whose works were on display was John Brooks Walton, Tulsa’s most famous living architect, whose room at Saint Simeon’s is now filled with his fantastic paintings and drawings. Other notable Resident artists featured were the Stitch in Time group, which creates stuffed animals and baby blankets, Martha Meyers’ beautiful cross stitching, Vern Stanton’s impressive wood carvings, and Paul McGraw’s colorful paintings.
Darlene was part of a group of employees in 2015 that was nominated by Sue Slama, Director of Nursing, and won because they came up with a great acronym to remind us what to do with the fire pillows when the fire alarm goes off. This had been an ongoing problem because in the rush to make sure the Residents are all safe, someone can get confused and hang the pillow outside the door when it should be inside or vice versa. This really matters! The fire pillow hanging outside the door indicates to other employees and the Fire Department that the room has been checked and there is no fire there and no Resident still in the room. No need for anyone to waste precious seconds opening this door - instead, go on to the next room! What was their acronym? ROPO = Resident out Pillow Out.

“I am a Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) in Assisted Living (AL). I do whatever is necessary to provide the best quality of life for the Residents. It is important to help people continue to do all that they can do on their own as long as they can, and then, as needed, provide them assistance. I am a friend to the Residents, and like a good friend, I talk to them, laugh with them, and comfort them when they are feeling sad. I make sure that they get to activities. I help Residents attend church services or Bible study, help them read their mail, or take them to see and enjoy things around Saint Simeon’s.

I’ve had a variety of jobs in my life. I worked in and later owned a pet shop, Piscean, on north Sheridan. I’ve worked in a department store and as a waitress in a pizza parlor. I’ve been a pharmacy clerk and a dispatcher for the Blackdog Fire Department. But I was always interested in nursing and in helping people. I took care of my grandmother while I was in high school. Before coming to Saint Simeon’s, I was doing private duty for a lady who moved in here. I came with her for a while and ended up putting in my application for a job here.

I grew up in New York state and lived in the small towns of Elmira and Erin. We always had pigs, chickens, and cows. We grew fruits and vegetables, just for our own use. My mother had a restaurant in town and we would work there on weekends. My dad passed away last month. He almost made it to his 91st birthday. I have three brothers and one sister and they live all over – Virginia, California, Mississippi and Oklahoma.
GETTING TO KNOW

After graduation, I moved to Cincinnati because of an uncle there, moved back for a while, and later was married in Ohio. My husband was in construction and a job took him to Oklahoma. We were married for 32 years but later divorced. I had three kids. Jeremy, my oldest, died when he was just 23 years old. My daughter, Maureen, is 28 years old and has two children. My grandson, Levi is 8 years old, and his little sister, Clairisa, is one and a half. My son, Billy, is 25 years old and still in love with motorcycles. I now make my home in Turley – I still think living in a small town is best.

Our Residents love the various animals here. I’ve worked at Saint Simeon’s for 22 years and can remember back when we had a rooster. One Resident virtually never spoke, but when she saw or heard the rooster, it would bring back the memory of when her son had a rooster, and she enjoyed telling us about it. Residents loved it when the tame rabbits in the courtyard would jump up on their patio chairs. They even forgave them when they ate their flowers. They love seeing the various wild birds and squirrels. Most of all, they loved Simone I and now Simone II.

For years now, we have had peacocks and they are never-ending entertainment – especially when the males start displaying their magnificent tails to court the females and when the chicks hatch each spring. Over the years we added the large aviaries, and some Residents check each day to see if we have any new baby birds.

I used to have a lot of animals at my house. In addition to the usual dogs and cats, we had a couple of iguanas, a boa constrictor, python, bearded dragon, red footed tortoise, raccoon, Quaker parrot, Patagonia parrot, and fresh and salt water aquariums. I always like the challenge of seeing what I could raise and breed. I even built my own incubator so I could hatch the eggs. I finally called it quits when the snakes got so big that they tried to eat my cat. I now have just two cats and a dog.

I love computers. I love to look up things and see if I can learn to do something that I have never done before. If I have a problem with something, I like to see if I can fix it myself. I’m kind of a ‘do-it-yourselfer’. I learned on the Internet how to fix my bathtub and how to replace a broken picture window. I also enjoy cooking and learning new things from TV Cooking Shows. I recently made my first New Orleans Muffuletta – it was delicious!

Years ago when Darlene was the Employee of the Month, it was because of her interest in looking things up on the Internet. “One of our Residents told me that his mother survived the sinking of the Titanic. I was intrigued by the story and went on the Internet to see what I could find. I not only found the recorded details, but other interesting information and even a picture of his mother. I printed copies of everything for him, including a letter his mother had written home to her parents. He cried when he read the letter because he didn’t even know it existed.”
Dear Residents, Families, and Friends of Saint Simeon’s

Every once in a great while, I discover a Chaplain’s Chat from the archives that I like and want to share again. I found this one from eight years ago and, well, it just made me feel joyful! So here it is again, with hope for a joyful Easter season!

“Alleluia! Christ is risen!” So begins the service of many churches throughout the world on Easter morning. It is a joyful, triumphant, and exhilarating exclamation! It is said with a sense of release and relief. Certainly, because we are celebrating the foundational event of Christianity – as Christ is raised to new life, so are we all. But also, for many, because we’re glad Lent is over, we can have chocolate again (or whatever was given up as a Lenten discipline), and spring is here!

Now these are not as trivial as they may at first sound. Lent is a profitable season for the soul, but there’s only so much self-examination a person can take. I don’t think I’ll get much argument on the importance of chocolate. And frankly, everybody is ready for spring! You see, Easter is always associated with spring because it falls on the first Sunday of the first full moon, following the spring equinox. (The Eastern tradition celebrates Easter at the time of the Jewish Passover).

The energy of spring and the energy of Easter are the same. New life is bursting forth from old tombs of seed and bulb and limb. The earth becomes adorned with the glory of God in flower and grass and leaf. Even within our own bodies, a new energy begins to surge, and we get a hankering to get out and dig that garden, ride that bicycle, or walk in the park.

Pervading all of this is a sense of joy and wonder. Our mood is elevated. Life seems filled with new and endless possibilities. Perhaps we even get a hint, a faint whisper, that God has been with us all the time; as close to us as our breath. Whatever tombs we feel have buried us, Christ has always been there, waiting for that moment to burst forth into the winter of our lives, bringing warmth and light and new life!

Have a glorious Easter Season; get out and soak up some springtime; oh, and, have some chocolate.

Blessings to you,
Fr. Bill Holly †
"Earth laughs in flowers."
— Ralph Waldo Emerson

What an early spring this year!
Nature is in full colorful regalia.

But maybe winter isn’t through with us yet…

Did I blink and miss winter? I’m not complaining – just commenting. Some plants were budding out and blooming as early as February. By March, our Redbud Trees, Ornamental Plums, Crabapples, Bradford Pear, Star and Tulip Magnolias had all finished blooming. Beds of Pansies thrived in the mild winter. Camellias, Lenten Roses, various kinds of Daffodils, Tulips, Crocuses and Hyacinths can be seen. Don’t forget the Naked Ladies. Their dark green leaves have shot up in beds. That’s all we’ll see for now. In the summer the leaves wither and disappear and we forget they were even there. Until almost overnight, the flowers on “naked” stalks suddenly appear.
Our Residents love to go on outings to museums, the zoo, musical and theatrical events in the community. Our policy requires that we have a certain number of staff/volunteers to accompany Residents to be sure everything goes smoothly and safely on these outings. Having more volunteers allows us to schedule more outings!

If you or someone you know would like to help on outings, we would be very happy to hear from you. A volunteer application and background check are required and can be completed within a few days.

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

John Howell

Saint Simeon’s has a 103-year-old Resident! Mr. John Howell is a new Resident in the Dotson Family Assisted Living Center. His wife, Jeanne, who is not at Saint Simeon’s, will also turn 100 this year!

Mr. Howell is originally from Fort Smith, Ark. He is a World War II veteran and made his career in civil service through the Veteran’s Administration, helping other veterans determine if they wanted to go back to school or make other life decisions.

He moved to Oklahoma to attend Langston University, where he met his wife, Jeanne. However, the two were not married until 1990, when he moved back to Oklahoma after a long stint in Chicago. He and Jeanne have been married for 26 years and he has a step-son, John Carmichael.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

April

4/1  Becky Richardson
4/4  Marilyn Wilson
4/5  Leslie Campbell
4/10 Virginia Lutman
4/10 Marjorie Dew
4/22 Louise Gruntmeir
4/22 Patricia Meyer
4/23 Geraldine Sanders
4/23 John Livingston
4/25 Doyle Allen
4/28 John Walton
4/30 Nancy Crayton

Welcome to our Family!

Stewart Harding
Gail Hardy
Marian Jones
Barbara Montgomery
Fred Slama
Mary Ann Slama

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Eloise Frayser
Charles Kingsley
Thomas Sisson
Clifford Weaver

Birthday Girl

Our sweet Simone is turning 7!

Friday, April 1 at 2:00

Common Room

This year, Simone’s birthday wish is to help the dogs of Tulsa’s homeless population! If you wish to give Simone a gift of dog food, treats, or toys, they will be donated to the Tulsa Animal Welfare Shelter, which distributes the items to dogs of the homeless. Large bags of dog food are especially needed.

Mother’s Day

Would you like to join your resident for Mother’s Day dinner?

We are accepting reservations until the available seating is filled or April 25 at the latest. Contact Attrell at 918-794-1903 to make your reservations.

If you no longer wish to receive the Quill by mail or if you wish to switch to a color, e-newsletter subscription, please contact Lindsay Morris at lmorris@saintsimeons.org or 918-794-1945.
Are you familiar with traditional Sadie Hawkins dances? Usually they are held on Feb. 29 every four years in celebration of Leap Day. Saint Simeon’s held its “every four years” Sadie Hawkins Dance on Feb. 29! Residents enjoyed music and jokes by the Mountain Oyster Boys, dancing, and snacks. Everyone was encouraged to dress as hillbillies in recognition of Sadie Hawkins herself.