SAINT SIMEON’S TO CELEBRATE
20TH ANNUAL WESTERN DAYS

For 20 years, donors have generously supported Saint Simeon’s, Tulsa’s Senior Community, through the Western Days annual fundraiser. Western Days 2016: Decades of Compassion will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2016 at Cox Business Center. This milestone 20th anniversary will benefit Saint Simeon’s Foundation and support operations of Saint Simeon’s Episcopal Home.

Phyllis and George Dotson, Event Chairs and Saint Simeon’s Trustees, are rounding up the ranch hands for this year’s event, with Mandy and Blake Atkins, Executive Vice-Chairman of the Saint Simeon’s Home Board of Trustees, serving as Patron Chairs. Lisa and Tom Schooley will serve as Auction Chairs. The event chairs, along with about 70 committee members, attended the dynamic Western Days Kickoff Party at The Restaurant at Gilcrease Museum on Wednesday, April 27.

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Edward J. Konieczny and Lindsay Hurley Fick have been selected as Honorary Chairs. “Bishop Ed” Konieczny is being celebrated for 10 years as the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma. Saint Simeon’s is also grateful for his leadership as Chair of the Saint Simeon’s Home and Foundation Boards. Lindsay Hurley Fick is being honored for 10 years as President and CEO of Saint Simeon’s.

This year, the Pioneer Spirit Award will be presented to Saint Simeon’s Resident John Brooks Walton. John is known locally as Tulsa’s most famous living architect and is author of several books, including One Hundred Historic Tulsa Homes. Most recently, John’s hobby of painting has been a growing passion, and dozens of his paintings line the walls of his apartment and a dining room at Saint Simeon’s.

Western Days 2016: Decades of Compassion hopes to build on past success featuring a marvelous Silent Auction, as well as the always entertaining Live Auction. The evening features the traditional General Store stocked with handmade items from Saint Simeon’s Residents and volunteers, and of course, a delicious dinner.

For more information about Western Days 2016, visit www.westerndaysevent.com or call 918-794-1977.
“On Easter Sunday, Laverne brought decorations from home and decorated parts of all five of our dining rooms. She wrote Easter cards and put one on each Resident table. Laverne also made Easter baskets and passed out candy and good wishes to the Residents. Laverne did this on her own with her own money. She truly loves the Residents!” — Max Silver, Director Morrison Community Living

“I feel like my purpose in life is to take care of people. I love people, so that makes me want to take extra good care of them, and I do. In turn, they love me! It’s all good. I work in Assisted Living, mostly out of Kitchen 7 (Valley View) and Kitchen 2 (Crossroads). I serve Residents their meals and do anything that I see needs to be done. I bring little treats for the Residents now and then – especially for those who don’t have any family. They’re still talking about all the decorations, candy, and toys I brought for Christmas and Halloween. I just like making people happy. Sometimes I also like to tease them. A Resident will ask me for some coffee, and I’ll say, ‘Oh, but there isn’t any coffee!’

Before Saint Simeon’s I worked at a lot of places, including the Camelot, Doubletree and Marriott Hotels, Greenwood Cultural Center, and the Tulsa Club. I’ve always been a server, though. I used to make salads, and at the Marriott Hotel, I was the ‘Pantry Girl.’

I came here just a year ago, but I had worked here before and was returning after being gone for five years. The first time I drove by Saint Simeon’s, I thought, ‘What a beautiful, gorgeous place, but they probably won’t hire me.’ I came back months later and was hired on the spot!

I was born in Chicago. My mom, Armeita, was a homemaker, and my dad, Edgar, was a barber. I loved going to the barber shop and spinning around in my dad’s chair. I would take my friends with me, and we would have so much fun. I’ve always liked to cook. I see things and want to make them. My mom liked to cook too. She was so nice and good to me. She was skinny (nickname ‘String bean’) and loved to dance. I had such a good childhood!
In the summers, Dad would put me and my mother on the Santa Fe Train to Tulsa to stay with my grandmother (my mother's mother) for the whole summer. Tulsa was so different from Chicago. I loved walking around barefoot. I could go for walks on the railroad tracks, go swimming, and pick pears and apples off trees. I loved it all! That's why I ended up living here – I'm a country girl at heart.

While attending Parker High School in Chicago, I worked part-time at a nice restaurant that a friend of my mother owned. After graduation, I later moved to Tulsa when I was 18 years old. I have a sister, Eva, who is 10 years younger than me. We all called her 'Penny' because she was the color of a penny when she was born. By the time I moved to Tulsa, my grandmother had died, but I stayed with my auntie in her house. My first job was at Latimer's Bar-B-Que, and from there, I went to the Tulsa Club, where I worked forever.

I met my future husband, Herman, on the city bus. He was taking the bus to school (Central High School when it was still downtown) each day while I was taking the bus to work downtown.

We've been together for 40 years. Our daughter, Arinita, works at Taco Bell part-time and recently got a little puppy. No grandkids yet. She has a nice apartment on Boston Avenue downtown not far from us. We live on Elwood in River Oaks, right around the corner from the BOK Center.

I just had to have my cat of 15 years put to sleep. We still have a chocolate and white cat that is also 15 years old. Bernie, our dog, is 17 years old. We keep our animals and our cars forever...

When I'm not at work, I enjoy sitting on the porch of our apartment, which overlooks the pool. I love to dance anywhere anytime and clown around the house. Herman retired from working at the Greenwood Cultural Center and now also works here for Morrison. I enjoy gardening (pots). I like scary movies. Herman likes westerns. My favorite TV show is Jeopardy. I've always been a fan of the host, Alex Trebek, but even more so when I found out that he takes care of his mother. I favor soul music and jazz, Beyoncé and the Kardashians, playing ball, riding bikes, and roller skating.
Dear Residents, Families, and Friends of Saint Simeon’s

From Harry Chapin’s “All my life’s a circle”:

It seems like I’ve been here before,
I can’t remember when;
But I have this funny feeling,
that we’ll all be together again.

No straight lines make up my life,
and all my roads have bends.
There’s no clear-cut beginnings;
and so far no dead-ends.

given. A casual, long ago acquaintance may be a significant participant in a life event. These experiences deepen, and therefore, change the nature of the former relationship. They become much more important than we could ever credit them as being before.

As I experience these recurring circles in my own life, I find great comfort and joy in knowing the truth that we are all interconnected in ways too wonderful to fully comprehend. We get glimpses. We get mere glimmers. Yet these glimpses and glimmers are quite powerful in helping these poor mortal minds we have, understand that there is a lot more going on behind the scenes. As Hamlet said to Horatio, “There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy.”

So, to end this reflection on the circles that find themselves intersecting again in this most holy place we call Saint Simeon’s, I will circle back to Harry Chapin, and the wonderful refrain to his song:

All my life’s a circle, sunrise and sundown. The moon rolls thru the nighttime, till the daybreak comes around.

All my life’s a circle, but I can’t tell you why. Season’s spinning round again; the years keep rollin’ by.

Blessings to you,
Fr. Bill Holly †
We lost one of our peahens. A special peahen. She was the only one who was obviously different from the others; one of the few I could justify giving a name. I called her “Best Mama.” She earned it. Several years ago a raccoon climbed over the roof and attacked as her chicks slept under her wings in the Gazebo Courtyard. They were not yet old enough to follow their mom up into a tree at night to roost. She put up a valiant fight and drove the raccoon off with his having only killed one of the chicks. The others were safe. The price she paid was the loss of one eye. You might not have noticed because she would always have the “good eye” side facing you.

As our only “handicapped” peafowl, she was at the very bottom of the pecking order and was bullied by the other birds. One summer, one of the other peahens literally took her chicks from her. Best Mama had raised four chicks, and the other hen only had one. That other mom abandoned her one chick and took Best Mama’s four. What did she do? She had to accept it, but then she did something she didn’t have to. She adopted the one chick whose own mother had cast it aside and raised it as her own.

where they would be safe from many predators and we could enjoy watching them grow up.

Even though our peahen passed away, the eggs she had laid remained. Kim Doner, whose dad is Resident Otto Doner in AL, artist, writer, and all around animal lover, answered our plea and rushed over to pick them up. Kim is very active in the Tulsa Audubon Society and is a founder of WING-IT (Wildlife in Need Group in Tulsa). A friend who was planning on buying one of our chicks anyway, had an incubator, and in they went. We hope they will hatch — Best Mama would like that.

Life goes on. One peahen has already hatched four chicks in the Reflections Courtyard and another is sitting on six eggs in the Gazebo Courtyard. This is something we look forward to each year at Saint Simeon’s!
Resident Anne Evans is a queen ... ever since she was crowned Mardi Gras Queen for the Health Care Center this year, she’s staked her claim as royalty. Naturally, her recent Tree of Dreams request was to attend the Renaissance Festival in Muskogee.

Tree of Dreams is a program that allows staff, family members, volunteers, and fellow Residents to nominate Residents to have a dream fulfilled. Jeff Centeno, CNA in the Health Care Center, heard Anne talking about how much she would like to go to the Renaissance Festival and nominated her. Jeff and his family ended up attending the festival with Anne on Jeff’s day off, and Juan Ferrera of Life Enrichment drove Anne to the festival and attended also.

The group had a great time eating turkey legs and frozen treats, trying on masks, meeting people dressed in Renaissance-period costumes, and more.

Western Days Live Auction Fishing Trip a Big Hit

Randy Olmstead, Chairman of Mid-Con Energy Partners, LP, was the winning bidder of the Western Days 2015 auction for the trout fishing trip at Spring Valley Anglers, a private fishing club headquartered in Northwest Arkansas. Randy was joined on his fishing trip by two friends and our own Rick Garren, the novice of the group who, of course, caught the biggest trout. Thanks to Randy Olmstead and Spring Valley Anglers for supporting Saint Simeon’s and Western Days, and congratulations to Rick Garren.
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

--- JUNE ---

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**FATHER’S DAY MEAL RESERVATIONS**

Would you like to join your Resident for Father’s Day Dinner on June 19?

We are accepting reservations until the available seating is filled or **JUNE 6** at the latest.

Contact Attrell at 918-794-1903 to make your reservations.

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“Understanding Speech Challenges among Parkinson’s Patients”

**Saint Simeon’s Common Room**

Join us for a special presentation by Sabih Parveen, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Communication Sciences and Disorders, Oklahoma State University.

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**Welcome to our Family!**

- Catherine Benedict
- Betty Brewer
- Norman Brewer
- Lewis Cappelleri
- Dwain Ezell
- Donnelle Horne
- Glen McGuire
- Robert Scott

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**WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS**

- Eugene Byrnes
- Jamie Hambrick
- Barbara Montgomery

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**Complimentary Lunch & Learn**

"Wills, Trusts, and Advanced Healthcare Directives"

with attorney Jamie A. Miller of J. Miller Law Firm

Join us for an informational session discussing estate planning tools, with a focus on healthcare directives, wills, and trusts. Jamie is a TU law grad who came to the practice of law after spending a decade in the field of education administration and policy. Jamie’s law practice focuses on businesses and individuals planning for their future needs and problem solving to achieve the clients’ goals.

**Saint Simeon’s Common Room**

**Thursday, June 23 at 11:30**

Please RSVP by June 20 to Lindsay Morris at 918-794-1945 or lmorris@saintsimeons.org.
Our Residents had a lovely time visiting The Pink House tea room in Owasso. The ladies enjoyed tea and lunch, and of course, touring the gift shop.