

Horizons

DMRC

Summer 2004

Women's Auxiliary Re-Born



Leslie Jacobs

With a history that spans 135 years it is no wonder things have come and gone. One of the things that became part of the Deer Meadows' history books was the Ladies Auxiliary. Yes, things have certainly changed around here and it isn't just our name.

We've taken off the white gloves that were once the style among high society ladies, along with the name, 'Ladies' Auxiliary. And with a more down to earth group of women and a more contemporary title DMRC's Women's Auxiliary has now been re-established.

Leslie Ann Jacobs (Mrs. Michael J. Jacobs) has graciously accepted the Chairwoman's position, along with Liz Harbison (Director of Marketing & PR) as her co-chair. As one of her first duties to celebrate the re-birth of the 'Women's Auxiliary' Leslie made our Craft Show its' first event. With over 20 vendors showing their wares, as well as a Bake Table set with goodies contributed by staff and families the Women's Auxiliary welcomed in the spring.

Barbara Ponticello, a co-worker and the Craft Show Committee Chairwomen with years of craft show experience, worked diligently completing the tasks of finding vendors. Flyers were sent to the local churches, and a mailing list of vendors was established. Barbara and other staff along with resident, Jean Herring volunteered their time to help create the event that set the ground work for the first Women's Auxiliary Holiday Bazaar to be held November 12 and 13. The Women's Auxiliary will lend a hand with various community events as well as host several events each year. Along with the Craft Show and Holiday Bazaar the Auxiliary will host a Spring Tea.

Funds realized from these events will help support Deer Meadows community as well as the Benevolent Fund.

Mark your calendars!! On Sunday, September 12th, Deer Meadows



**DMRC
Celebrates
135th
Birthday**

Retirement Community will host a birthday bash for our residents, their families and all of our friends. Please be sure to join us in celebration of our 135th birthday.

There will be clowns, strutting with the Mummers and music by a DJ along with lots of games and prizes to help celebrate the 135th birthday of our community. Birthday cake, hot dogs, popcorn and other party foods will be available to friends and visitors as we joyously celebrate this milestone .

Deer Meadows Retirement Community began as the Baptist Home of Philadelphia in 1869 in a small building in West Philadelphia. It has evolved into the growing vibrant community that can serve over 450 residents.

Please come with your family and friends and join us on Sunday, September 12th as we sing "Happy Birthday" and celebrate with the whole DMRC family?



Robert Wombwell Director of Development



It recently occurred to me that every time I sit down to write an article for Horizons, I am asking for financial support for DMRC. I thought this time would be a little different and I would take the time to tell all of our friends WHY obtaining donations is so important to us.

Some organizations raise money for a new building, some for renovations, some to provide new services and other equally important goals.

As I reflected on most of the requests made in my letters and articles, I realized that our appeals were for a very special reason. Almost every appeal was for funds to support our Benevolent Fund. From the Tree of Life program to the Golf Outing to the Annual Cameo Ball, all are dedicated to benefit this cause.

We are in fact asking for your help in taking care of our residents. Caring for our family is the most important goal that we have and it is one of the most important tasks that we undertake on a daily basis.

For 135 years – an amazing length of time – Deer Meadows Retirement Community has provided care to our seniors. Part of this effort has been to maintain the goals of our founders. In keeping with these goals, we continue to provide care for those members of our residential family whose assets have been depleted.

This effort is supported through the assets of the Benevolent Fund. For this year, we will provide almost \$500,000 in care to members of our community whose assets are not sufficient to pay their expenses. This is a significant amount of money that directly adds to our expenses. We are all aware of what such increase in expenses can do to our personal budget and you can be assured that it does the same to our organization's budget.

Oh, and don't forget to name Deer Meadows Retirement Community as a beneficiary of your will. But more on that in the next issue.

Second Annual Golf Outing



April 28th was another beautiful day at Deer Meadows and at our Second Annual Golf Outing. Held for the benefit of the Benevolent Fund, the event once again enjoyed beautiful weather, a great course and great food. Held again at Torresdale Frankford Country Club, this year's event hosted over 65 golfers of all levels of skill and we do mean all levels.

DMRC would like to thank some of the special supports of the day. McKesson Senior Services was the Title Sponsor for the second year and we are most grateful for their support. RehabCare Group sponsored our Luncheon and Johnson, Kendall and Johnson were most generous as the Golf Cart Sponsor. Many other of our corporate friends also helped to make the day a success.



The Committee is glad to report that we just passed our goal of \$10,000 for the Benevolent Fund. An extra challenge this year was to raise enough money to purchase a used golf cart for our security offices. We were able to meet that goal and this cart will be used to increase their ability to patrol the campus in a more effective method. A special thanks is sent to all those who helped in this campaign.



The Third Annual Golf Outing is already booked for Wednesday, April 27, 2005. Be sure to mark your calendars. Registration will be available on our website at www.deer-meadows.org in the months before the event. The only concern the Committee has is whether we can order up another beautiful spring day. We are sure we can!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Remember if you contribute to United Way at work, our Donor Choice Agency Number is 01090

It Seems We Are All 'That Age'

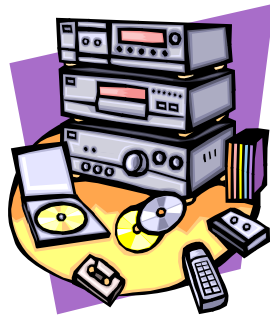
It seems like only yesterday that I had a conversation with my mom and dad about getting older. Mom said to me "I guess we're getting to be **that** age." Quietly inside I knew what she was talking about, but honestly, I could not see my mom or dad being **that** age.

Then it happened, last year at my 36th wedding anniversary. My kids had decided that what my husband and I needed was a DVD player. We had been watching movies on our VCR for so many years, that we thought *that* was what we needed, or at least what we wanted. But, alas those kids of ours are so smart, they knew what we really needed.

The kids arrived with 'the' gift that Sunday afternoon and as we started to unpack it my husband and I looked at each other silently acknowledging that we were in for a long afternoon. As the packing was thrown about the den floor and cables were being connected, my son announced, "Jeeze mom, how old is this TV?" I replied proudly, "1989, it's a Sony and we've never had to put a penny in that TV". A horrid look came over our kids faces all at once. One of them shrilled, "1989 no wonder the color is so dull." That seemed funny my husband and I didn't notice the color being dull. Actually, the color looked just fine to us.

My son remarked, "The cable for the DVD isn't compatible with your set. Boy, are you two getting to be **that** age". What age? Who? Suddenly, I thought of my mom and dad.

This could only mean one thing, we were taking a trip to the store for a connector to make the two electronic devices compatible. So we were off. When we walked into the store, the boy behind the counter began telling us that, yes indeed, our TV was very old. And even when we got it connected he informed us, we would not get the real enjoyment from the DVD player without the latest "surround sound". Again my husband and I looked at each other and just rolled our eyes.



We somehow knew 'the' gift was going to cost us money. And, how old was that kid telling us what we needed? I swear he was only 12. At least he looked like he was 12! As we suspected my husband and I left the store minus \$679.86 from the ole wallet. But, we were going home to surely enjoy our new state of art movie experience. As we left the store, under the breath of that sales kid, I swear I heard him tell his partner, "Well their at **that** age, it's a good thing their kids are there to set up that system."

When we arrived home the den was unrecognizable. Packing and wires were everywhere, boxes haphazardly strewn across the room. My precious TV, my Sony, was sitting haphazardly towards the front of the wall unit, turned and waiting for the union. After the kids set the system up they said their goodbyes and happily went on their way. We on the other hand were left looking at each other and now had 4 new remotes. Which one would give us the wonderful movie experience we could not tell you. And now we didn't even know which one belonged to our VCR that we once thought was just what we needed to watch movies. We even began to wonder how to turn the darned thing OFF and which remote would be the one to do it. Yes, those kids surely knew what we needed. And to this day we have to call one of them when we want the DVD player turned on. We are now at the point of happily watching the Turner Classic Channel which shows movies with out a DVD player.

But revenge is sweet. Just last week my son was reprimanding his teenage son for some weekend party planning. It seemed the kids were planning to put tents up without checking with their dad about the grass being damaged. I heard my grandson announce, "Oh dad, we are just pitching tents in the yard to sleep out. Don't you remember sleeping out? Boy you're getting to be **that** age?"

And so I realized what my mom was saying, and it wasn't a sad thing. The way I see it, on any given day, at any given time, it seems we are all **that** age.

Staff Stuff



Lisa Sofia

When new employees attend their orientation, I am proud to tell them that we are a company that likes to promote from within. Sometimes they look doubtful because so many people from management say things like that to new staff but do not stand on those words. Fortunately, at DMRC those words are spoken frequently and those words are spoken honestly.

During the orientation process I tell a story that reinforces that statement. The best story I enjoy telling is about a young LPN nurse who worked at DMRC for an outside agency. She was sent here to work as a 'fill in' and our residents really took a liking to her. Administration noticed she was a

real hard worker. One day when she came to fill in, she was asked if she would like to become a permanent part of the Deer Meadows staff. That nurse was Lisa Sofia, and in 1987 she joined the Deer Meadows 'family' as a nurse on the floor. Her diligent work was continuously observed by family members, co-workers and administration. It wasn't long when Lisa was asked if she would take on the task of being the clinic nurse, she accepted. She is one of those self motivated and hard driven individuals, who has the work ethics that are conducive with our mission. Soon Lisa was promoted to Director of Resident Services. Later, the position of Assistant Administrator opened in healthcare and everyone agreed she fit the bill. Lisa decided then and there she was going to return to school and get her BSN. One way or another she would find the time to go back school while working full time and raising her growing family of 5 children, along with the help of a good husband. Soon Lisa was promoted to Nursing Home Administrator. Lisa continued to work hard and long hours, sometimes working over 50 hours a week all the while she felt something was missing. She wanted to continue her education and become a Registered Nurse, it was something she always wanted to do. She wasn't happy to stay an LPN even though that is an accomplishment in its self. Lisa wanted more. The desire to finish college was growing deep within her. She enrolled at LaSalle and embarked on the challenge to go to school at night and on weekends. I remember weekends when I would stop by her house, she had a book in one hand (memorizing for a test) and the vacuum in the other. And that went on for two more years.

During this time other unexpected changes took place at DMRC, we got a Executive Director, Michael J Jacobs. And when Mike took his new position he made many changes. He identified things that needed to be done, and one of those things was to bring the community together. And so he promoted Lisa to a new position as the Community Administrator.

Recently, Lisa graduated from LaSalle University. I watched her 'pinned' in an age old ceremony by the Nursing Department at LaSalle. Her dream to get her BSN (Bachelors Science Nursing) degree has been achieved. And, yes, during this time her hard work was noticed and on July 1, 2004 was promoted to Chief Operating Officer.

I tell this story to our new staff to encourage them and to reiterate how great the job they have taken really is. To be a part of the Deer Meadows family working force is a great place to be in the world of healthcare. Yes, we are proud to promote from within and we encourage our staff to be all that they can be; Lisa Sofia is a great example of hard work and "Promotion from Within". She is proof of what Deer Meadows not only talks about but acts upon. And Lisa is not done, she will soon pursue her MBA as well as her MSN. (Masters of Business Administration and Masters of Science and Nursing).



The Reverend's Thoughts by Rev. Nelson Krute

Did you realize you took a test in the last edition of the Horizons? Even though you may not recall it, you did take a test. After reading my column you completed the following multiple guess test --



I thought 'The Reverend's Thoughts' in this Horizons was....

- a) above average. His thoughts were sharp and right on target.
- b) average. This column said what he always says.
- c) below average. If this column is an example of his writing and thinking, he needs to go back to school.
- d) incomplete. Something seemed to be missing. He didn't complete his thoughts.
- e) there's a column entitled 'The Reverend's Thoughts'??? I didn't know the Reverend wrote a column.
- f) none of the above.

The correct answer to the test is (d) incomplete. If you answered correctly, give yourself an A+. If you didn't answer correctly, compare last issue's column with this issue's. (If you answered (c) or (e), please come to see me. We need to talk.)

What happened is that somewhere between the editors receiving my column and the mailing of the printed copy, the last two paragraphs of my column disappeared. No one can explain how, but they vanished into some black hole in cyber space. Below is the complete version of my previous column. I trust it makes more sense than the incomplete version of the last Horizons...

At one of the churches I served as pastor, we had a guest speaker one Sunday named Alexander Yut-chovski.

Alexander was a Russian Baptist who had come to the United States to study.

Leaving his wife and family in the Soviet Union, he came to get a seminary education and then planned to return to the Soviet Union to "continue preaching the gospel." The seminary he was attending pledged to handle his tuition. But, there were other expenses . . . Our church was one of several that had pledged to help him with those other expenses.

On that Sunday, as Alexander began to speak, he apologized for his poor English. Or as he put it, "I want to say I'm sorry for my mistaken English. But I'm sure you'll have an easier time understanding my mistaken English than my excellent Russian." (In case you are wondering how I remembered . . . used to, but overall, his 'mistaken English' was quite understandable.)

In a way, we are all in the same situation as Alexander. No, I am not talking about having to learn a different language. I am talking about learning a different style of living. Before we put our faith in Jesus, we have a certain style of living. In it, we have arranged our life by 'putting ourselves first,' or by 'listening primarily to pride,' or by 'making our own security most important,' or by choosing any number of other attitudes/actions which sin uses to keep us firmly under its control. We become an expert in the style of living we have chosen. We are excellent at 'putting ourselves first,' before considering anything else.

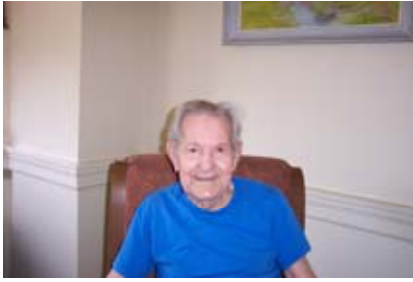
Then, when we put our faith in Jesus, we begin an intensive study of an entirely different style of living. This is life arranged by Jesus. It is life where . . . attitudes such as love, actions such as service, and learning to rely on God's grace become most important. Like all others in such an intensive study, sometimes our attempts at this new style of living are "mistaken." We may fail to love as Jesus wants us to.

HOWEVER, as Alexander said concerning his "mistaken English," people will be able to see Jesus more clearly in our "mistaken style of living by love and faith" than in our "excellent style of living by putting ourselves first." So, we keep on studying, learning, and attempting to live by what we see in Jesus.



Resident Profile: Norman Beckman

By: Jerry Lathrop



Norman Beckman

Norman Beckman has been honored by DMRC for his time and devotion. His caring ways and above all his fellowship towards his neighbors and good friends.

Norman has served the community for many years and volunteered in the Gift Shop each and every morning. He has been a role model and has been an inspiration to all of us here at Deer Meadows.

Norman was a wonderful caregiver to his wife for many years while he volunteered his time to serve our community. Norman has since retired from his duties in the Gift Shop and now devotes his time watching over his neighbors.

On behalf of DMRC, Norman was presented with a Certificate of Recognition with deep appreciation for his dedication and faithful service.

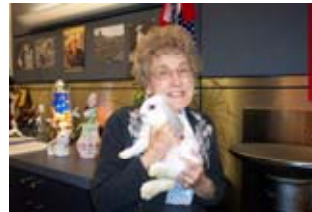
Thanks Norman, and best wishes for continued good health for many years to come.



Eden Concept Keeps Hopping Along

The Eden Concept just keeps hopping along now with the addition of two floppy eared bunnies to our animal family. There is currently a contest to name the two furry beauties. The male who is friendly and cuddly is a warm sable color with big brown eyes. The female which is the more shy of the two is white with pink ears and the most adorable big pink eyes. Both bunnies have created such a stir throughout the community that residents and staff alike are waiting their turns to hold the babies.

The Eden Concept is continuing to grow at DMRC since it was first introduced by CEO, Michael J Jacobs. Along with the rabbits, two love birds, 8 canaries of various colors and a multitude of fish are found throughout the Deer Meadows halls.



Pauline Feretti & Friend

Residents continue to inquire, "When are the dogs and cats coming?". According to Mike Jacobs, "You never know when a new member of our family will arrive." "So for now we will excitedly wait for more baby bunnies." In the future watch for more rabbits to be housed throughout the healthcare hallways and dining areas for residents and visitors to enjoy.

Women's Auxiliary Leading DMRC at Alzheimer's Walk

The next item on the agenda of the Women's Auxiliary is to get involved in the Alzheimer's Associations annual walk on October 10th in Philadelphia.

Last year the DMRC team had about 25 walkers who showed their support of finding the cure for the devastating disease. The Women's Auxiliary is looking for 135 walkers.

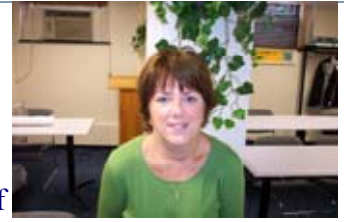
Anyone interested in walking, or would like to be a team leader for a family group, please contact Liz Harbison, Director of Marketing & PR.

We will meet in the DMRC parking lot to car pool to the Fairmount Park area where the walk will take place. There will be goodies for the walkers, as well as some fun, while showing our support of the day.



The Learning Lair

by Margi Johnston, Director of Community Education.



The Education Department has been very busy for the past year. Not only is our staff being educated on mandatory in-services but we have had students from area schools do their Clinical Rotations right here at DMRC. Some of the participating schools are, Clinical Pathways (CNA Program), Episcopal School of Nursing, LPN Program, 1199C CNA Program. DMRC administration, staff and residents welcome students. You can find them on the nursing units learning while helping staff and our residents with the chores of community living. All of these students go through a general orientation to our community.

We recently had the opportunity to attend a research seminar at Widener University on Staff Retention for Certified Nurses Aides. These workshops ran for 6 months and as a result of this program we have made changes to include more staff involvement with care planning and committee involvement. LaSalle University offered a "Gerontology" course that was open to their students as well as our own staff. The course introduced a guest speaker during the semester that did a talk on "Self Abuse", in the community.

SE-PANPHA also recently held an in-service that seized our attention for a full day. The presentation was on "Managing Difficult Behaviors". We had a dynamic speaker named Katy Ruckdeschel, PhD, who hailed from the University of Pennsylvania and Philadelphia VA Medical Center.

Some other educational classes coming up include an eight-hour workshop to certify "Feeding Assistant" and a PowerPoint Presentation on "Bathing Without A Battle", "Conflict Management" and many more learning opportunities for our staff.

A character we have all grown to know as "Don't Know Flo" is found on many flyers attached to paychecks offering educational follow-up of mandatory in-services we offer. Some of those educational in-services include, Blood Borne Pathogens, Infection Control, Accident Prevention, Fire Safety, Communicable Diseases and Disaster Preparedness.

S.W.A.T.T. (Staff Working All Together Team) has had some wonderful contest and fun events. Some have included, "Who is this Baby" using employee male and female baby pictures and staff must guess who that baby is today. A Fourth of July Contest that asked employees to submit an idea for a future contest. In August we will be having a Cultural Diversity Day, which will be an opportunity to learn the customs and languages of many backgrounds. We will also have the opportunity to taste foods from the countries represented. A free multicultural cookbook will also be given out. S.W.A.T.T. has done skits and sing-a-longs to help make education fun.



Our Education Room has been recently updated. With wall-to-wall rugs, window treatments and comfortable chairs and tables to make the room more conducive for learning. It is a bright and comfortable room for staff to come and have some fun while they continue to learn.

As a member of the SE-PANPHA Education Committee for front line staff we are able to bring more information from resources such as the organization PANPHA.

Education is key to our staff working together as a team. Knowledge is power only if

**DEER MEADOWS
RETIREMENT COMMUNITY**

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Community Billboard:
**Family & Friends of DMRC
meets at Deer Meadows
second Tuesday of each month
at 6:30 PM**

For more information contact
Norb Kuznicki at 215-624-7575 ext. 1190

**Alzheimer's Support Group
Second Wednesday 7PM-9PM
Spousal Support Group
Third Tuesday 2 PM**

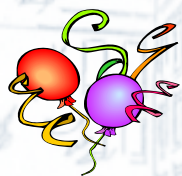
Horizons Editor: Liz Harbison
Contributing Stories: Bob Wombwell, Rev.
Nelson Krute, Margi Johnston, Jerry Lathrop

Please make subscription requests
to the Editor c/o Deer Meadows



**Visit us on the Web at:
www.deer-meadows.org**

Mark Your Calendars



September 12th.....
.....135th Birthday Celebration

- September 20th.....Everyday People Choir
- September 26th.....Mike Jacobs Quarterly Social
- September 28th.....Dedication Hymnals & Bibles
- October 1st.....Annual Cameo Ball
- November 5th.....Annual Art Auction
- November 12th & 13th.....Women's Auxiliary Holiday Bazaar
- November 27thTree of Life

To be appear 20