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FRONT PORCH

A quarterly publication for residents, employees, and friends of Masonic Pathways.

9TH ANNUAL MASONIC PATHWAYS' SALUTE TO VETERANS & FRIENDS

On Veterans' Day, Tuesday, November 11th, Masonic Pathways once again took time out to pay homage to our Veteran residents, family and friends. Masonic Pathways is currently home to 70 World War II Veterans, including one woman; and 20 Korean War Veterans, including one Ally. We're also proud to have two Veterans on staff.

An exhibit, featuring photos and memorabilia provided by our Veteran residents and their families, opened at 9:30 a.m. in the Doig Chapel foyer. The tribute, held in Doig Chapel and hosted by Village Estates resident Marian Webster, began at 10:00 a.m. with the presentation of the Army, Navy, Air Corps, Marine and Coast Guard Service Flags.

Open to the public, the ceremony included a musical rendition reminiscent of the war years starting with World War I and continuing with World War II, Korean, Vietnam, Persian Gulf and Iraq 2003 War songs. Following the musical tribute Larry Wallach, Executive Director of the Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation spoke about his



Service flag presentation ... Gary Hynes (Navy), Louis Begin (Coast Guard), Bob Schaeffer (Army), Orrin Hoxie (Air Corps), Harold Kitzman (Marines)

reason for collecting World War II memorabilia. Not only did his father serve in the U.S. Army during the War, his mother was from Europe and lived in Nazi occupied Poland. Larry's parents instilled in him a special appreciation for those who serve in

our armed forces. His private collection was also displayed in the Doig Chapel foyer. The ceremony concluded with a Memorial Service for those Masonic Pathways Veterans lost during the past year.

In addition to the Veterans' Salute, on Thursday, November 13th, Masonic Pathways and the Gratiot County Department of Veterans' Affairs hosted a presentation on Compensation and Pension benefits available to qualified Veteran's and their widows and widowers. This informative meeting was open to the public and over 125 citizens from both Gratiot and Montcalm counties were on hand to learn about medical and financial eligibility, and the application process.



Larry Wallach, Exec. Dir. of Michigan Masonic Home Charitable Foundation



Roldolfo Diaz-Pons, Director of Gratiot County Dept. of Veterans' Affairs



Lisa Godfrey presents bouquet to our Salute Hostess, Marian Webster

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10 ELEMENTS OF QUALITY

- Commitment
- Governance Accountability
- Leading-Edge Care & Services
- Community Involvement
- Continuous Quality Improvement
- Human Resources Development
- Consumer-Friendly Information
- Consumer Participation
- Research Findings & Education
- Public Trust & Consumer Confidence

“It feels like coming home.”

In October, I enjoyed the privilege of attending the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA) Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA. I find it very fitting, as we approach the Holiday season, that they promoted this year’s event as, “Like coming home for Thanksgiving. It’s where I see family ... make new friends ... and feed my mind, heart and soul.”

They were right, along with hundreds of motivational and highly educational sessions, the meeting provided unlimited opportunity for networking with many peers and colleagues. And like relatives you see at Thanksgiving, some of the sessions proved to be more interesting than others.

Sessions highlighting AAHSA’s Quality First, commitment to creating the future of aging services through quality people can trust, proved to be among my favorite “relatives”. Masonic Pathways has been striving to practice the 10 Elements of Quality, and I found it encouraging to see the progress we, along with our peers, are making toward that commitment.

As we approach Thanksgiving, I hope you have the opportunity to see family, make new friends, and feed your mind, heart and soul. On behalf of everyone here at Masonic Pathways, I wish you and yours a truly “fulfilling” Thanksgiving celebration.

Cindy Bosley

Chief Administrative Officer

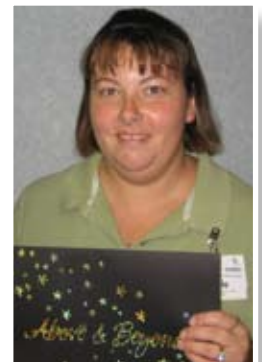
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



Beth Bailey
July



Darren Thompson
August



Jamie Foglesong
September

WELCOME TO MASONIC PATHWAYS

Admissions from 7/3/08 – 10/21/08

7/3	Patricia Narsesian	
7/4	John Gager	
7/8	Nile Allen	Ithaca Lodge #123
7/9	June Powell	
7/10	Frederick & Vivian Carter	Saginaw Lodge #77
7/11	Marjorie Gould	
7/11	John Hunter	
7/13	Donald Simpkins	
7/14	James & Marcia Prieur	Flushing Lodge #223
7/15	Cheryl Gunderman	
7/21	Irma Owen	
7/22	Reba Flanary	Victoria Chapter #290
7/25	June Maas	
7/25	Mary Harner	
7/28	Lois Netzley	Alma Lodge #244
7/28	Geneive Haynes	
7/29	Jack Bunting	Owosso Lodge #81
7/29	Eileen Crunk	Hazel Park Lodge #570
7/30	Edwin Hills	
7/30	Maxine Battle	
7/31	Loren Nelson	
7/31	Vergil Thompson	
8/4	Betty Willaman	
8/7	Harold Foster	
8/10	Lillian Zimmerman	
8/15	Violet Suttan	
8/18	Milton & Joanne Coston	Detroit Lodge #2
8/21	Doris Craft	Trenton Chapter #325
8/22	Garnet Hoard	Breckenridge Lodge #406
8/27	Marieta Clingenpeel	
8/28	Phyllis Clark	
8/29	Ruth Dinsmore	Montrose Chapter #351
8/29	Boyd Douglas	Breckenridge Lodge #406
8/31	Bruce Barclay	
9/3	Vivian Strom	McMillan Lodge #400
9/4	Wilbur Jenison	
9/5	Rosa Elzey	
9/11	Kathleen Brickner	
9/12	Betty Young	
9/12	Glada Sparks	
9/12	Leland O'Shaughnessy	
9/12	Faith Hamilton	
9/12	Wanda Lytle	
9/13	William Bartholomew	
9/15	Lorene Stoner	
9/15	Richard Cutler	
9/16	Doris Sipe	Alma Lodge #244
9/16	Wanda McNeill	
9/18	Ruby Mitchell	
9/19	Viva Thrush	
9/19	Lillian VanSoest	Charlotte Lodge #120
9/25	Herman Oisten	Allegan Lodge #111
9/26	Virginia Trevithick	
10/1	Bernard Blake	
10/2	Donnavere Rusmisel	
10/3	Verga Rasmussen	
10/7	Ethel Densmore	
10/7	Jean Myers	
10/10	Eleanor Cutler	
10/14	Alberta Teed	
10/15	Mary Delaney	
10/15	Lena Greenhoe	
10/16	Donald "Keith" & Rosemary Needham	Alma Lodge #244
10/17	Howard Crites	
10/21	Leila Zelinski	



WE'RE LOCATED IN A GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD

Article contributed to by Colin Hayward

Masonic Pathways is extremely fortunate to have Gratiot Medical Center, an affiliate of MidMichigan Health, as a close neighbor. Located just south of Masonic Pathways on Warwick Drive, Gratiot Medical Center has been providing quality medical care to our residents, and all of Gratiot County for decades. More than 125 physicians and mid-level practitioners serve on the active medical staff in 22 different medical specialties. There are more than 1300 employees and 250 volunteers.

Although Masonic Pathways boasts a Clinic capable of providing everything from dental to podiatry services, there are times when more specialized and emergency services are necessary. For those we turn to the Gratiot Medical Center. In recent years Gratiot Medical Center has grown into a care network that provides a vast array of specialty services such as renal dialysis, interventional radiology, cancer treatments, and surgical services.

Just recently Gratiot Medical Center opened its new four-story patient care tower with 120 private rooms. Already opened in 2007 were a new emergency room and a new urgent care/occupational health facility. Gratiot Medical Center is the focal point of a medical community that clusters around it, and Masonic Pathways, on Warwick Drive. Masonic Pathways' association with Gratiot Medical Center is one of mutual admiration. Depending upon patient requirements, after release from Gratiot Medical Center, many are referred to Masonic Pathways for short-term rehab or skilled nursing care.

Gratiot Medical Center, like Masonic Pathways, supports the City of Alma and all of Gratiot County through continued involvement in, and support of, many community events and organizations. Each October, Gratiot Medical Center and Masonic Pathways join together to host a Community Health Fair, where over 600 local citizens take advantage of free health screenings and low cost vaccinations.

Masonic Pathways is truly grateful for neighbors like Gratiot Medical Center.

MASONIC PATHWAYS... WHERE THE ACTIVITIES NEVER STOP



Cindy Bosley and David Burnning

2008 GOLF OUTING



Charolette Taylor shows off her hotdog hat.

This year's outing raised a record \$15,000 to benefit Masonic Pathways. The Campbell Agency, for the second year in a row, was the team with the lowest score. Winner of the Golf Clubs, donated by Specialized Pharmacy, was David Brunning.



2008 FAMILY PICNIC

Over 1200 Masonic Pathways Residents and their families were treated to a traditional picnic of Hamburgers, Hotdogs, Baked Beans, Pasta Salads, Fruit, Chips and Cookies at the Annual Family picnic on Saturday, August 2nd. The day included fun activities for the kids and a craft show featuring items made by Masonic Pathways Residents.

THE MUSIC PLAYS ON



The St. Louis High School Steel Drum Band performs in the Doig Chapel on Thursday, October 23rd.

George Jennings provides Accordion music in the OES Dining Room for the Oktoberfest on Wednesday, October 15th.

There's always music at Masonic Pathways ... whatever your preference, instrumental or vocal, accordion to steel drum ... we aim to please.

As we approach the Holiday season, we look forward to many musical performances... the Barbershoppers, a Piano Recital, and much more.

Visit our website at www.masonicpathways.com for a list of upcoming musical performances.



The Tawas... in the



Bernadine Vaughn, the Custers, McChesneys, Kazooks & Bechills are among those who attended this year's Higgins Lake trip. Jessie Brown and Fred Whitmore head up the table of those enjoying Schwan treats.



ANNUAL HIGGINS LAKE TRIP ENJOYED BY BOTH RESIDENTS AND STAFF

For many years residents have looked forward to Labor Day and our annual outing is open to residents and staff at Pathways, including the Health Care Center. The financial support from Mason William P. and Yoland McCormack, their generosity has allowed residents to enjoy the



Wii 101



Rosemary Asher (top right) and Trina Buskirk (above) participate in Wii classes.



Bay Singers entertain residents, Doig Chapel, on Saturday, August 16th.

For a Business Class learning project, Alma College students taught Masonic Pathways residents the art of playing Wii. Bowling and tennis were included in the Sports residents could take on. AC students held three classes a week, and ended their project with a big Masonic Pathways Wii tournament.

2008 COMMUNITY NIGHT & CAR SHOW



Residents and staff at Masonic Pathways attended the first Wednesday following their annual trip to Higgins Lake. The residents from all areas of Masonic Pathways, including those who live in the Jack F. Sanders building. The event is made possible thanks to a trust fund originally established at Doig Chapel in the 1940s and from Kevin & Trina Buskirk, who both work at Masonic Pathways. Their generosity made it possible for hundreds of residents to enjoy the Higgins Lake outing over the years.

The weather was perfect and hundreds of residents visited the Masonic Pathways campus on Friday, August 1st for the 2008 Community Night & Car Show. Youngsters of all ages enjoyed a visit from Shrek and his friends, Fiona and Donkey. Children were treated to nearly 500 Swamp Pop popsicles, scores of green balloons, and had their faces painted to match their favorite characters. The Cruise-In Car show brought over 100 vintage vehicles from as far away as Wisconsin. Lots of fun activities lead up to the showing of Shrek the Third on a huge outdoor movie screen.





THE PASTOR'S PEN

by Pastor George Ayoub

Times of Change!

Have you worried about life recently?

Finances? The state of our nation? The economy?

This year has brought many changes, many of which have caused us to ponder the future... if not worry! Change is hard to handle, but when we feel as if we have no control it is harder yet... and then we worry! We worry about our jobs, how we will pay the mortgage, what will happen to our retirement funds and investments, and if the economy will be able to recover without sinking further into turmoil.

Does worrying help?

What can we do to help get through the times of change?

1) Evaluate: Worrying never seems to help much, but one good thing about times of change is that they cause us to evaluate our lives and where we want to be. During times of evaluation we think about where we have been in the past, where we are now... and where we would like to be in the future.

- From the past: We can see the tough changes we have already lived through, the problems we have solved, and how we have moved forward and been blessed in life.
- In the present (now): We can consider the things we are thankful for... for family and friends, food to eat, and a place to live, for employment which helps to pay the bills. If we take the time, we will have the opportunity to count our many blessings, and in so doing, we will find that we have much to be thankful for.
- For the future: We can be reminded that our country, our world, and our families have been through tough times of change in the past. These changes brought new strength. The same will happen for us. As we go through the struggles of change, and seek to find the best path, we will grow stronger, and wiser.

2) Find a Way to Help: When we count our blessings, we often think of others we know who are not as fortunate. What do we do? Do we think of ways to help them? In times such as these, one thing we can do to help get through the times of change is to follow our calling as those who believe in God: to help those we know to be in need. For me, when I am busy helping someone else I am less likely to worry about my own troubles. God helps us to refocus, and in so doing, to regain our strength and positive attitude.

"Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God;... for the sake of Thy name, O Lord, revive me. In Thy righteousness bring my soul out of trouble." Psalm 143: 10-11

"Do unto others as you would have others do unto you." Luke 6:31

The message is clear: The best way to handle the changes of our day and drive our fear away is to follow God's direction... help others in need!

This is also part of our commitment as Masons... to reach out to distressed brothers and sisters... and HELP! When we become active helpers we feel less worry and stress. Only God is able to help us get through the tough times of change.

May God grant you the strength to help others in these times of need and change.

Peace,
Pastor George



Memoriam

Deaths 7/4/08 - 10/10/08

- 7/4 **Russell Isham**
Carson City Lodge #306
- 7/6 **Robert Christensen**
Trufant Lodge #456
- 7/7 **George Root**
- 7/8 **Charlotte Sanger**
Lincoln Park Lodge #539
- 7/13 **Gerald Mereness**
Tawas Lodge #274
- 7/16 **Mary Buckberrough**
*Rochester Troy
Chapter #165*
- 7/16 **Nile Allen**
Ithaca Lodge #123
- 7/22 **Sylvia Albright**
- 7/24 **George Hamilton**
Detroit Lodge #2
- 7/26 **John Hunter**
- 7/28 **Clayton Stahlman**
- 8/14 **Sheila Potter**
- 8/20 **Mary Morton**
*Grand Blanc
Chapter #507*
- 8/20 **Rita Kreiner**
- 8/21 **Dallas Zonkers**
Jackson Lodge #17
- 8/21 **Dorothy Lite**
Lowell Lodge #90
- 8/21 **Dorothy Clague**
Pinckney Chapter #145
- 8/28 **Maxine Battle**
- 8/30 **Thomas Lull**
Lisbon Lodge #229
- 8/31 **Augusta Sinclair**
- 9/1 **Esther Montgomery**
*Edwardsburg
Chapter #476*
- 9/8 **John Gager**
- 9/9/ **Jack Bunting**
Owosso Lodge #81
- 9/10 **Bruce Barclay**
- 9/11 **Shirley Taunt**
Pilgrim Chapter #447
- 9/13 **Carrinda "Beth" Westfall**
- 9/14 **Thelma Crawford**
*Revere-Woods
Lodge #538*
- 9/16 **Robert Rideout**
Roscommon Lodge #364
- 9/20 **Vergil Thompson**
- 9/21 **Helen Hawkins**
Phoenix Lodge #13
- 9/24 **Erika Bossow**
*Laurel of Acacia-
Eastgate #477*
- 9/25 **Jesse "Bill" Barth**
Stockbridge Lodge #130
- 10/1 **Beatrice Spencer**
- 10/2 **Margaret Hall**
Mason Lodge #70
- 10/6 **James Draper**
- 10/10 **Lera Cark**
Eaton Rapids Lodge #63



Musings by Marian

by Marian Webster
Masonic Village Estates Resident



The ninth annual SALUTE TO VETERANS AND FRIENDS was held in the Doig Chapel on Tuesday, November 11th. November 11 marks the anniversary of the Armistice (laying down of arms) that was signed between the Allies and the Germans in 1918, ending World War I.

The name was changed to Veterans' Day by an Act of Congress on May 24, 1954. On October of 1954, President Eisenhower called on all citizens to observe the day by remembering the sacrifices, and to honor the service persons, of all America's wars.

At the first Masonic Pathways Veterans' Salute, the number of veterans at Masonic Pathways was 75 and included 5 women. The number has remained quite constant. This year's salute honors 86 and includes 18 Air Force, 19 Navy, 37 Army, 3 Coast Guard, 5 Marines, 3 Women and 1 Ally.

Who is a VETERAN? Many misconceptions abound even among veterans. The Department of Veterans' Affairs explains, "Federal law defines a veteran as 'a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable'".

Many veterans believe that a person is not a veteran unless they came under fire during a war. Others believe that they are not veterans because they served State Side and did not go overseas. Veterans' Affairs says "not true".

Persons are not veterans for a number of reasons — too young for WWI or too old for WWII; deferred by a draft board or prohibited by medical problems.

Masonic Pathways also honors FRIENDS ... those who remained at home but served by growing crops, working in defense factories, and maintaining the structure of government.

WHO IS A VETERAN?

By Fran Strand
Masonic Village Estates Resident

He is a father, called up from reserve status to quell an uprising in a foreign country, leaving his wife and child to do what his country asks of him.

She is a mother, serving in the desert in harm's way, to help free people dominated by oppression.

He is a son, who tells his mother, "Mom, if I die, I want you to remember that I think this is important enough to die for."

He is a grandfather, uprooted from his farm when his National Guard unit is activated to fight a battle he didn't start but which he understands is important to win ... to keep his right to worship as he sees fit, to speak his mind, and to assemble as we have here without fear of reprisal.

VETERANS DAY

By Webster "Webb" Stahl, Poet in Residence

We celebrate Veterans' Day and time moves on
To remember our comrades forever gone.

Many were lost on battlefields —
The Navy — and places of yore.

Now with the terrorists — no safe places anymore.

We congregate at cemeteries —
churches — public places of name.

We meet to pay them honor — there is no room
for shame.

Bands will play, people will march — elegant speeches made,
We all have our memories of life with sunshine and shade.

May we all be brought together with liberty — justice and
peace.

And the next generations find a way to live
with one another and all share the feast.

All these crosses are a testimonial to the price
that has been paid.

May the Good Lord show us the way —
the road has now been laid.



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FORMER EMPLOYEES. . . NOW LIVING AT MASONIC PATHWAYS

Fern Clement



You often hear people say that they spend so much time at work, they feel like they live there. These retired Masonic Pathways' employees, actually do live where they worked.

Fern Clements

In 1959, when Fern first joined the Masonic staff, she worked in the "infirmary" kitchen, formerly located in the lower level of the current Grand Lodge. Originally from Arizona, Fern and her family resided in Riverdale. She once taught weaving in the Activities room. Now aged 87, she lives in HFA.



Lyle Inbody

Bob Wedge

Bob also started his employment in the "infirmary" kitchen. He later worked in maintenance, retiring in 1987. Now aged 86, he has lived in HFA since March of 2004.



Bob Wedge

Lyle Inbody

Lyle, former Maintenance Supervisor, was employed by Pathways from 1981 to 1986. After a two year stint in the Navy, he became a St. Louis resident. He now lives in Jack Sanders Health Center.



Donnavere
Rusmisl



Boyd Douglas

Donnavere Rusmisl, former Environmental Services employee and **Boyd Douglas**, former Head of Maintenance, and one-time Interim Administrator, have recently been Short-term Rehab patients at Masonic Pathways.

We're always pleased to have former employees "back home" at Masonic Pathways.