

# soaring

A PUBLICATION OF MENNONITE HOME COMMUNITIES



*Introducing the Hearts and Hands  
Women's Connection*

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SPRING 2018

# Introducing Hearts and Hands WOMEN'S CONNECTION

One of the uniting threads that weave together the many residents of Mennonite Home Communities (MHC) is their genuine concern for one another. A new group at MHC puts this love into action in a unique and powerful way. Hearts and Hands Women's Connection is dedicated to giving and sharing to support the MHC mission and provide benevolent care for those who have outlived their financial resources.

The Hearts and Hands Women's Connection members are women who want to make a difference in this community. All women who share a heart for giving and compassion for others are invited to be a part of the Heart and Hands Women's Connection by giving an annual donation

of \$500, which will benefit the Benevolent Care program!

Kim Peters, Development Coordinator, said that the idea became a reality after presenting the concept to several residents. Those women included Reba Buckwalter-Kreider, Hilma Mumma, Suzanne Burger, Rosalyn Ward, Marilyn Beardslee and Kitt Gamber.



"My decision to invest my time and resources in Hearts and Hands Women's Connection was primarily based on raising awareness of and helping meet

the need for benevolence within Mennonite Home Communities," shares Reba. "I believe that we, the women of Mennonite Home Communities, are in a unique position to make a positive impact on improving

the quality of life of fellow residents and their families, whose financial resources have been compromised as a result of unexpected life experiences."

Rosalyn also sees the group as a natural one as she states: "As women, we have traditionally been cast in the roles of care-givers and nurturers. Now we have the privilege and opportunity to add the role of financial supporters for worthy causes. I'm honored and excited to join with other women in the Hearts and Hands Women's Connection to establish an environment for increasing women's contributions to benevolent care. We are so blessed to have this wonderful 'home for life.' Our financial support seems to be an appropriate and thankful response to this blessing."

Hilma echoes her sentiments: "When we as women bond together and reach within ourselves to make a difference, may we have the JOY (Jesus, Others, Yourself) of knowing others' needs are being met

through 'giving hearts and hands!' Although the group is just starting, Kim is already very encouraged by the enthusiasm and passion she sees and feels. "I am looking forward to connecting with women, who like me, have a heart for benevolent care. As women learn more about the need for and impact of benevolent care, lives will be changed."

As you think about your loved ones, neighbors and friends, please consider joining this caring group. The Hearts and Hands Women's Connection will meet three times per year, including:

- **annual meeting to discuss the ongoing needs of benevolent care**
- **social meetings to encourage others (friends, community members, family) to join**

- **one educational meeting on a topic directly related to women**

In talking about why she joined, Suzanne shares a quote from Thomas Alva Edison: "The value of an idea lies in using it." As she explains, "He was taking a stand with innovative projects. The invitation to join the Hearts and Hands Women's Connection poses a similar challenge. To me, it gives an opportunity to make a difference giving my time, talents and promotion of benevolent care. Ideas may abound! Women will benefit!"

For more information or to join, please contact Kim Peters, Development Coordinator at 717-390-4105 or [kpeters@mennonitehome.org](mailto:kpeters@mennonitehome.org).

## Luncheon & Social

**SATURDAY, APRIL 28  
11:00 am – 1:00 pm**



**Guest speaker:**  
**Lori Burkholder,**  
**WGAL**  
**TV8 News Anchor**

**Woodcrest Villa**  
**VIVA Centre**  
**Gamber Auditorium**  
**2001 Harrisburg Pike**  
**Lancaster, PA 17601**

**Free, but registration is required by April 6, 2018. Space is limited.**

Call Kim at **717-390-4105** or online at [www.mennonitehome.org/luncheon](http://www.mennonitehome.org/luncheon) to register.



Kim Peters



Hilma Mumma



Suzanne Burger



Rosalyn Ward



Reba Buckwalter-Kreider



Marilyn Beardslee



Kitt Gamber

Photo: Nick Gould Photography

This special event is for women interested in supporting benevolent care at Mennonite Home. Please join us for this exciting opportunity to introduce you to Hearts and Hands Women's Connection. The program will also include speakers from the committee.

# Honored 42 Years of Distinguished Service



Board President Patricia Leaman (left) and Mennonite Home Communities President John Sauder (right) thank retiring Board Member Jim Thomas (middle) for his 42 years of service.

The world is a vastly different place than it was 42 years ago when Jim Thomas, Esquire, joined the Board of Mennonite Home Communities (MHC) in 1975. And so is Mennonite Home Communities! Through it all, Jim has been one of the guiding forces leading us toward important changes.

Jim's legal knowledge has been an invaluable asset, as is his respect and enthusiasm for the MHC mission.

Shortly after his retirement from the Board in January 2018, Jim shared a few of his MHC memories.

When Jim first joined the board, MHC only consisted of Mennonite Home. Because of increasing state regulations, MHC constructed additional building and renovated existing buildings. Woodcrest Villa soon took root as our residential living campus, simultaneous to the construction of the Lancaster General Health Suburban Outpatient

Pavilion. This growth period continued into the early 2000s and required increasingly sophisticated and specialized services such as therapy and dementia care.

In addition, the Board identified ways to better serve residents. MHC enthusiastically adopted the concept of person-centered care in 2005 after a one-day retreat led by a national expert in the topic. This new approach began in nursing households and quickly became our preferred way of caring for our residents.

Jim recognized that the evolution of Mennonite Home was prompted by a combination of regulations, market demand, effective leadership at the Board and executive level and significant societal changes. The Board has focused on good financial stewardship, while honoring God and our original mission of providing a home for life for our residents.

Jim noted that Mennonite Home grows incrementally in response to clear demand. He has also seen the Board develop through the years from a group of Mennonite deacons to a more diverse collection of professionals from varied backgrounds and industries.

Just as the Board has changed and evolved through the years, so too has executive leadership at MHC. The selection of the President/CEO is one of the Board's major responsibilities as this determines who will be the face of MHC and provide leadership for all employees and residents. During his first year on the Board, Jim was involved in the selection of President Paul Leaman. Later, Jim helped in the selection of President Nelson Kling in 1993 and President John Sauder in 2016.

As a lawyer, Jim brought a valuable skill set and perspective to the Board. Lawyers are often analytical and bring a strong commitment to soliciting diverse opinions, then participating in the discussion to consensus. They know how to disagree and challenge with respect without being disagreeable. Lawyers also understand the regulatory process and can help the organization work with regulators and challenge those regulators when necessary.

Although being on the Board was a distinct pleasure and honor for Jim most of the time, he admitted that he found the discussions regarding rate increases to be the most challenging because of the impact on the residents. The Board takes this balancing act very seriously.

Jim finds his service on the Board of Mennonite Home to be his most gratifying public service because of the thousands of lives touched and MHC's stellar reputation. As he says goodbye, he does so with a smile because he feels the Board and executive leadership are well positioned for future growth and continuing provision of high-quality services in our beautiful and convenient location.

## Becky Wise Joins Woodcrest Villa

Becky Wise joined the Woodcrest Villa team as the new Community Life Coordinator in late November. Becky replaces Sandy Hess who retired in October after serving our residents for more than 19 years.

Becky comes to us from Traditions of America, a 55+ Community in Lititz. She has extensive experience in planning and executing lifestyle-enhancing events and activities. She was recently honored with the Best 55+ Lifestyle Director award from the National Association of Home Builders.

Becky is already an integral part of the WCV family and has quickly gotten to know many of the residents. She aims to engage residents in events and activities that appeal to a wide variety of tastes and that will enhance their quality of life.

Becky is a native of Lancaster and enjoys the many biking and hiking trails that the county has to offer. Her proudest accomplishment is being a mother to her daughter, Sam, who is a sophomore at Drexel University in Philadelphia.



## Welcome to Sharon Sullivan!

Sharon Sullivan has joined the Mennonite Home team as the Director of Dining Services. She has spent her career in hospitality and dining, having worked at several prestigious restaurants in the Philadelphia region as well as owning and operating her own for several years. Sharon is well-versed in all aspects of dining services including catering, special events and meal service. Most recently



Sharon was the Director of Dining Services for Flik, Lifestyles Hospitality Group, a company that provides dining services oversight for different organizations. In her role with Flik, Sharon worked at Manatawny Manor and LutherCare in Lititz. She also previously worked as the Director of Dining Services at another community.

Sharon is a graduate of Conestoga High School and Penn State University. She lives in Devon and enjoys being outdoors and spending time with her grown children, a son and daughter.

## Glenn Weber Completes 15 Years of Exemplary Board Service

Glenn Weber joined the Board of Mennonite Home Communities in 2003 and served with distinction until his recent retirement in January 2018. Glenn chaired the Board during the dramatic evolution of our caregiving philosophy to the person centered care model. This was accompanied by a \$14 million investment in remodeling our facilities into comfortable households. Glenn's goal was to provide a home-like, as opposed to institutional, approach to care.

After successful completion of that endeavor, Glenn turned his attention to the development of 16 villas in Rubia Place and creating the Landis Run secure personal care household for memory support. Glenn improved our facilities and caregiving dramatically.



Board President Patricia Leaman (middle) and Mennonite Home Communities President John Sauder (right) thank retiring Board Member Glenn Weber (left) for his 42 years of service.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

# Some Things in Life Are Free



**Who says that nothing is free in life?**

This is the fourth year that Woodcrest Villa (WCV) residents have had the opportunity to have their income taxes processed and e-mailed to the IRS—at no charge—through AARP TaxAide. In 2007, this wonderful service was brought to Lancaster by June Wesbury. Throughout the years, taxes have been complimentary completed for many people throughout Lancaster County.

The main base of operations for TaxAide is the First United Methodist Church in Lancaster, which has satellite locations throughout the county. AARP is always looking for volunteers for tax help and other activities.

In 2014, WCV formed a partnership with June and her TaxAide volunteers. Tom Nesbit has been our “point person” and liaison. His help has enabled us to become a site and offer this successful service. We are fortunate to have a few WCV residents assisting with TaxAide volunteers in this wonderful endeavor.

For the first two years, Marilyn Beardslee served as an IRS-certified tax preparer. Her role was to input resident’s tax information into the computer. For the last two years, she was one of our facilitators.

In that role, she meets with residents before their tax appointment to help them get their paperwork in order and answer questions.

Marilyn was a Business Education major and enjoyed teaching. She also worked for H&R Block and always did her own taxes. She says, “I feel it is a real service to help and it definitely saves people a lot of time and money.”

Graydon Dodson has been involved as a facilitator since the beginning. An engineer by profession, he always enjoyed math. He wife volunteers and he felt that it only made sense for him to volunteer somewhere too. Since he does his own taxes, assisting others was easy for him. He strongly believes in public service and feels he’s been very blessed and enjoys helping others.

David Neuer served as a facilitator at the church for two years and for the last four years he’s been helping at Woodcrest. He will be the first to tell you that he has no tax background, but he heard about the need to help through

church and just wanted to get involved. He says, “I love seeing people’s faces when you tell them that it really is free.”

Two other WCV residents, Joy Kroehler and George Werner, have been volunteering at the church. Throughout his career, George worked with specialized taxes.

He feels this ministry is very rewarding because of people’s gratitude. In the past Al Huizing and Sandy Hoover also served as facilitators at WCV.

All tax volunteers must complete annual IRS and TaxAide training and then pass IRS tests. They hold all information in strict

confidence. Over the last four years, many WCV residents have benefited from their time and talents. We are very grateful for this wonderful ministry and wish to thank all who have been involved.

*Marilyn Beardslee (left), David Neuer (center) and George Werner (right) enjoy helping others benefit from the blessing of AARP TaxAide.*

*We are very grateful for this wonderful ministry and wish to thank all who have been involved.*

## The Seeds of Change Sprout at the New Garden Café

It’s a new year and a new look for the Garden Café! The café reopened in early January welcoming residents back and showing off some great new digs. Digital signage and menu boards guide residents through various new options.

Exciting additions include an action/carving station and a made-to-order (MTO) station. A cornucopia of selections is offered at the soup and salad bar over lunchtime.

The idea of using stations will eliminate the “cafeteria line.” Guests can simply walk up to their station of choice and place an order. The MTO station has two touch-screen kiosks to place sandwich orders. However, those who prefer may still place an order using the traditional pencil and paper method. The action/carving station allows the dining team to entertain the senses with the aroma and visual display of cooking. New merchandising displays showcase additional a la cart items such as yogurt, cereal, fresh fruit and desserts.

*Tom and Sandy Krantz (front) and Lew and Gloria Kauffman (back) enjoy lunch in the newly reopened Garden Café.*

On certain days scent of freshly baked bread will entice diners in the café and surrounding areas. This addition gives the team opportunities to create fresh bread products and menu items.

According to Shaun Metzler, Director of Dining Services, “Our new cooking space for the café is self-contained and most of the food production will happen on the spot to make the breakfast and lunch experience more efficient and enjoyable.”

Certified chefs trained the team on all the new equipment.

The dining team will also be putting their talents to good use. The cooking skills of sous chefs Jim Weber and Frank Portello have added taste and variety to the menu. Manuel “Manny” Augello and Jason “Jay” Shaak are dining supervisors who work

closely with the chefs in implementing new menu items.

Ryan Gunzenhauser, Assistant Director of Dining Services, has been putting his creativity to good use. He has been brainstorming and perfecting new menu options before introducing different foods to the residents. As diners’ tastes change, the café is keeping pace. The resident dining committee provides input and Ryan and

Shaun also stay atop industry trends found in other communities and local restaurants.

Thus far resident feedback has been tremendous, which has the Dining Services team excited to continue to evolve and bring residents foods they enjoy and are proud to share with their friends and family members.

*Exciting additions include an action/carving station and a made-to-order (MTO) station.*



## Mennonite Home Communities

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### soaring

**Featured on the cover:** Rosalyn Ward, Suzanne Burger, Hilma Mumma and Kim Peters (left to right) are a few of the women leading the exciting new Hearts and Hands Women’s Connection.

**SOARING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Connie Buckwalter, Jane Gamble, Kathleen Maule, Dan Mortensen, Kim Peters, Greg Pierce, John Sauder

### *Create a lasting legacy*

by supporting Mennonite Home through your estate and/or your will. Call Greg Pierce at 717-390-4903 to learn more.

If you would like to receive information about **Residential Living at Woodcrest Villa**, call 717.390.4103

If you would like to receive information about **Personal Care or Health Care** at Mennonite Home, call 717.390.7979

If you wish to have your name removed from our mailing list, call Kris at 717.735.2647.

# 23rd Annual Golf Outing

## THURSDAY, JULY 12 • ROYAL OAKS GOLF CLUB



### REGISTER AT:

[www.mennonitehome.org/golf](http://www.mennonitehome.org/golf)

### AM Scramble

7:00 AM Registration, 7:30 AM  
Shotgun Start, Lunch & Prizes 12:30 PM

### PM Scramble

12:30 PM Registration, 1:00 PM  
Shotgun Start, Dinner & Prizes 6:00 PM

Please call Kris Hess at (717)735-2647 with questions.