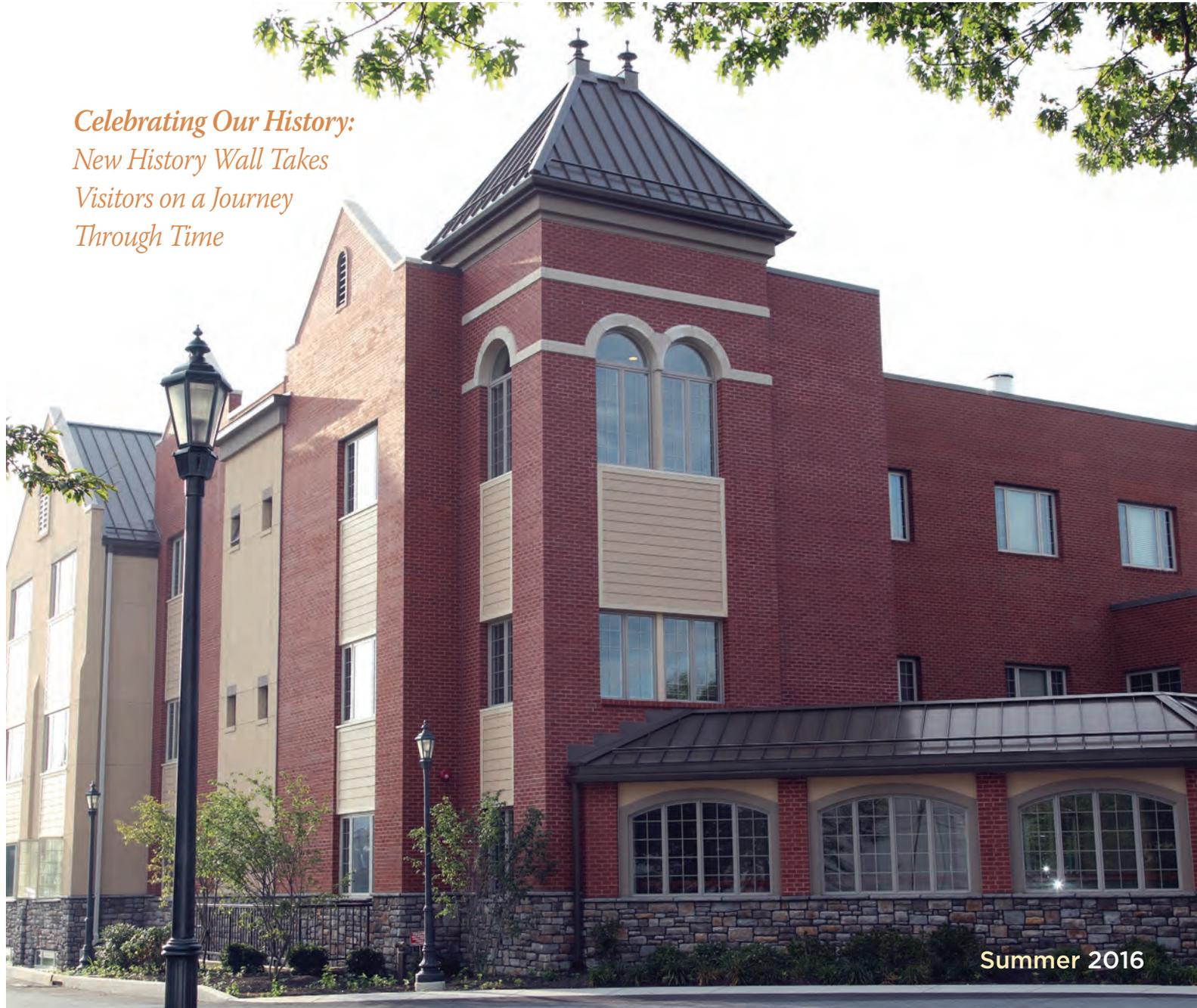


*Celebrating Our History:
New History Wall Takes
Visitors on a Journey
Through Time*



Summer 2016

soaring

A PUBLICATION OF MENNONITE HOME COMMUNITIES

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You Must Tell The Story!

The Mennonite Home Communities (MHC) Development Department enjoys visiting with new residents to welcome them and get to know them. On one visit with Peter & Diana Ryckman, they shared the story of John and Lydia Landis' gift of eight acres of land for the original Mennonite Home, followed by their 1911 gift of their entire estate. This is the land where Woodcrest Villa sits. Immediately, the Ryckmans said, "You must tell that story, publicly, graphically!"

A team of board members, staff and Peter Ryckman, resident, worked with a professional exhibit vendor from Philadelphia to create a History Wall that summarizes our 110-year plus story. The team utilized Paul Leaman's

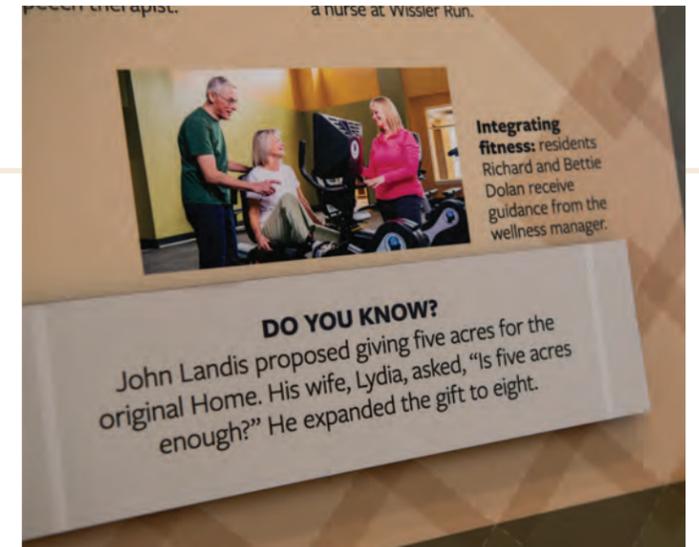
Paul Leaman (right) and Nelson Kling have provided leadership and direction for Mennonite Home Communities for a combined total of more than 40 years!

book "On a Journey," searched through the corporate archives and did further research with the Mennonite Historical Society and local historian Henry Benner.

This impressive exhibit is displayed in the pre-function space outside of the auditorium in the new VIVA Centre.

The team considered both the major themes and the enduring images that would best permanently represent the history of MHC. Ultimately, they organized the story into the themes of our Legacy of Generosity, Compassionate Care and Vibrant Community. Each of these panels contains core scripture passages that have guided our mission since 1903.

The central panel conveys our Legacy of Generosity. Based on James 1:27 "caring for widows in their distress," the founding principle of providing a home for life to



those in need continues to define our commitment to each of our residents. Fulfilling that mission was made possible by the gift of land from John and Lydia Landis and the generous gifts of many local Mennonite congregations. Many leaders have given generously of their time, energy and wisdom, none more so than Amos Kauffman, Board Chair from 1906 until 1933. Generous donors have stepped forward throughout our history to provide the resources critical to each step of our growth.

The Compassionate Care panel highlights Deuteronomy 15:8, "Be open-handed and provide whatever they need." The care of our residents has changed considerably from the teams of volunteers from local churches who once provided gardening, canning, cooking and cleaning of resident rooms. As we added new levels of service for skilled nursing, therapy, memory support and residential living, Mennonite Home Communities expanded its services. Today we provide person centered care in a homelike household environment and emphasize fitness and intellectual stimulation across all levels of care.

Jesus' command in Galatians 5:14, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" is the foundation of our Vibrant Community panel. Our love for one another is expressed

most vividly through the many hours of volunteer services provided by both residents and the local community. The MarketPlace at Woodcrest Villa is an example

of the leadership volunteerism of two unique individuals, John and Mary Rolinc, supplemented by a large team of volunteers who operate The MarketPlace and provide delivery services. Volunteers provide direction and support for Mennonite Home Communities church services and fundraising for Lancaster community needs.

A variety of activities and resident-staff interactions further express our vibrant community.

The History Wall rests, literally and figuratively, upon a base reader rail that details the timeline of the Chairpersons of the Board of Trustees and the front-line leaders of the organization, whose titles have evolved from Steward,

Superintendent, Administrator, to President/CEO. Pictures of these individuals are punctuated by notable historical events and milestones in the history of Mennonite Home Communities.

This impressive exhibit is displayed in the pre-function space outside of the auditorium in the new VIVA Centre.

Join with us as we celebrate the people who have generously given of their time, talent and resources to create our vibrant, caring community.

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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT
Elmer Berkebile

Resident Embodies Active Attitude and Positive Spirit



They have two daughters, Cathy, who lives in Allentown and Peggy, who lives in Berlin, MD. They also have five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and together with his second wife Mary, he has eight step-grandchildren.

After Elmer retired from teaching, he served as the Church Administrator at Manor Brethren in Christ Church for five years. Subsequently he started his second retirement, which only lasted five years. The church then asked Elmer to return to serve as Church Administrator again, which he did with a joyful heart before retiring permanently five years later.

Being a part of the community was always very important to Elmer. He was on the committee that founded the Johnstown-area Vo Tech School, Board of Trustees at Juniata College and the PIAA Board of Control. He also was President of the Millersville Lions Club and received the "Jones Award" for his service.

He absolutely loves living at Woodcrest Villa, in fact, he says that the best decisions he has made in the last few years was moving to Woodcrest in 2010 and asking Mary to marry him a few years later.

Elmer's love for teaching has never abated. He still teaches Bible Studies at Woodcrest and taught Bible Study Classes at his church for more than 20 years. He loves to relax by playing Scrabble or enjoying a fantastic breakfast with different groups or friends. But some of his favorite memories are from all the wonderful years when he traveled.

Another of his passions is golfing. During nice weather, you'll find him out on the course once a week. His best golfing memory is when he made a hole-in-one at one of Mennonite Home Communities' terrific Annual Golf Tournaments, and then learned he was the only person who has ever achieved that milestone in the outing's history!

Elmer is currently the Chairman of the Resident Council for Woodcrest. He says that he is so impressed at how the administration of MHC always shows the importance for the safety and well-being of all its residents.

He and Mary love living here and we love having them here!

Elmer has thoroughly enjoyed his 37-year career as an educator; in fact he actually retired three times. For his first 16 years he taught 9-12 grade English and Social Studies in the Johnstown area. He then became a Guidance Counselor for a year before serving as the High School Principal for the next seven years and the Supervising Principal for seven years after that. In 1967, Elmer moved to Millersville to become the Superintendent of the Penn Manor School District. When he looks back over his career, he says that the position he loved most was High School Principal because during those years he was really able to get to know students the best.

Before teaching, he served as a Hospital Corpsman in the Navy for two years. He then received his BA degree from Juniata College, his MEd from Pitt, and then his DEd through Penn State.

Elmer married his high school sweetheart, Alice Yoder, and was married for 64 years before she passed away.

WOODCREST VILLA REPRESENTS AT SENIOR GAMES

10 Residents Win Medals!

Congratulations are in order to the more than 20 Woodcrest Villa residents who entered the annual Lancaster Senior Games. Lloyd Frey and Ruth Fiedler (pictured below) were the top WCV male and female award winners in their respective age categories. Lloyd placed in nine events—winning three of them—while Ruth placed in 10 events—winning nine of them! Of those competing, 10 residents won medals:

Al Avery

- Frisbee Golf, 1st

Wilma Beard

- Bridge, 2nd

Ruth Fiedler

- Bench Press, 1st
- Bocce Ball, 1st
- Football Throw, 1st
- Frisbee Golf, 1st
- Frisbee Throw, 1st
- Home Run Derby, 1st
- Soccer Penalty Kick, 1st
- Softball Throw, 1st
- Walking, 1st
- Darts, 2nd

Lloyd Frey

- Bocce Ball, 1st
- Home Run Derby, 1st
- Soccer Penalty Kick, 1st
- Bench Press, 2nd
- Darts, 2nd
- Frisbee Golf, 2nd
- Frisbee Throw, 2nd
- Softball Throw, 2nd
- Football Throw, 3rd

Ella Groff

- Frisbee Throw, 1st
- Bench Press, 3rd
- Soccer Penalty Kick, 3rd

Phyllis Stone

- Softball Throw, 2nd
- Frisbee Throw, 3rd

Al Kuser

- Bench Press, 1st
- Darts, 1st
- Football Throw, 2nd
- Softball Throw, 2nd

Betty Lentz

- Bench Press, 2nd

Frances Rowe

- Singles Bowling Tournament, 1st



Russ Scherer

- Football Throw, 1st
- Longest Drive, 1st
- Three-Point Shooting, 1st
- Bench Press, 2nd
- Singles Bowling Tournament, 2nd

Congratulations to all WCV participants: Ken Beard, Dorothy Brubaker, Milt Byers, Fred Hamor, Diane McCoy, Jim McCoy, Phil Metzler, Sue Metzler, Phyllis Newcomer, Barbara Saylor and Janet Sweigart. Everyone had fun and did a great job! All athletes also appreciated the cheers and support of their fellow residents Joanne Ellis, Thorpe Ellis, Charlotte Lynch and Phil Lynch, who created their own cheering section for the WCV team!

Mennonite Home Communities has been a long-time supporter of the Senior Games and this year was a silver sponsor.



News & Updates

Gone from the Board, but not Forgotten! Joan Nicholson Continues Serving Her Community



After five years of service as the Woodcrest Villa representative on the Board of Trustees of Mennonite Home Communities (MHC), Joan Nicholson submitted her resignation on April 1. Joan reflected that she started her service on the Board when the early discussions began that resulted in the construction of the VIVA Centre. Joan found great satisfaction in working through the planning and focus group process, culminating in the fabulous facility that residents and the community enjoy today. VIVA Centre meets the fitness and cultural needs of our residents and positions Woodcrest Villa for success in the local retirement services market.

Joan also participated in the committee who created the History Wall. Her daughter remarked that the exhibit covers the entire history with emphasis on the generosity of prior and current generations. Joan sees it as one of the best features of VIVA Centre.

Although no longer on the board, Joan has agreed to continue to serve on the Woodcrest Development Advisory Committee. Joan is featured in the recently created Woodcrest Villa video: "Good News for Charitable People." She shared the experiences of her and her late husband, Bob, in using the Qualified Charitable Distribution. Bob and Joan were partners sharing strong stewardship values, a commitment to benevolent care and concern for tax efficiency. Joan's video testimony is a powerful endorsement with actual results that will resonate with viewers.

The short video features board member Andrew Steckbeck, CPA, and is available for the use of any church, synagogue or non-profit organization.

Joan will help Greg Pierce, Director of Development, with a charitable attitude survey and a project to promote a culture of philanthropy at MHC. Joan is excited to advance philanthropy because of its importance to our continued financial success and to upholding our founding mission of providing a "Home for Life" to all of our residents.

We thank Joan for her strong Board service and her numerous volunteer roles over the years.

Good News for Charitable People

Recently the Development Team at Woodcrest Villa created an educational and informative video entitled "Good News for Charitable People." In a brief six minutes, viewers will learn the rules for IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) and the strategic benefits. Development Director Greg Pierce is happy to share the video with non-profit organizations or answer questions at **390-4903**.

VIVA La Mile Run/Walk



Woodcrest Villa Wellness Center Manager Michele Stipe (left) and residents Albert and Elizabeth Huizing are excited about the upcoming one mile run/walk starting and finishing at the VIVA Centre. The event is slated for 8 a.m. on Saturday, October 15 and is open to residents, employees and the general public. Special prizes will be awarded to the top male and female overall, age group finishers, top male and female residents and top male and female employees. These prizes will include handcrafted items donated by Woodcrest Villa residents as well as other special treats. All participants will receive a long-sleeved shirt with the VIVA la Mile logo as well as a bag and water bottle (pictured). Please join us for this fun event! Proceeds benefit the Benevolent Care Fund. For more information, visit our website, www.Woodcrestvilla.org/vivalamile.

Music & Memory Program Recognizes Outstanding Volunteer

Nicole Jeck, a Millersville University student, recently completed a directed project as part of her studies in psychology. As part of her project, she helped with the Music & Memory™ program for several months, going beyond the required 30 hours she needed to complete her course. She helped by creating playlists for residents and observing their responses as they enjoyed the music. She worked with many residents and their families individually. Mennonite Home appreciated Nicole's energy and passion and she loved working with the residents in a way that allowed her to bring pure joy into their lives.

In speaking with Nicole, this was meaningful for her personally as she worked with each resident and got to know them. This experience has impacted her life. Nicole will be pursuing her career goals and feels that she wants to learn more about the benefits music has for individuals.



Mennonite Home Communities Welcomes Kari Cassidy

Kari Cassidy is the new Director of Human Resources and Risk at Mennonite Home Communities. She takes the place of Kimberly Blessing, who was previously promoted to Vice President of Human Resources and Organizational Development. Before joining MHC, Kari worked for nine years at Lancaster Regional Medical Center and Heart of Lancaster Regional Medical Center as a Market Human Resources Manager. Her department had human resources oversight for 25 physician practices affiliated with the hospitals and 1,500 total employees.



Kari also has experience working in management and human resources for restaurants and hotels in Lancaster County. She remembers working for the Olive Garden in 1993 and watching the construction of Woodcrest Villa! Her experience in the hospitality industry provides her with a unique perspective that is valuable in human resources and customer relations.

A native of Paramus, NJ, Kari moved to Lancaster in 1992. She lives in East Hempfield Township with her husband and 14-year-old daughter who is a competitive figure skater with Red Rose Figure Skating Club. We are excited to have Kari on our team!

Mennonite Home Communities

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www.mennonitehome.org

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

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

If you wish to have your name removed from our mailing list, call Kim at 717.390.4105.



Explore Retirement Living

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SIMPLY BETTER LIVING

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, Oct. 15

10am-4pm, Welcome Center
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2001 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster -
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Tours, refreshments, fellowship, fun!

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2016 Nathan Cox Photography

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Featured on the cover: Mennonite Home Communities has changed a great deal over the years and visitors can gain a better understanding by viewing the new history wall in the VIVA Centre at Woodcrest Villa.

SOARING COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Connie Buckwalter, Nelson Kling, Kim Peters, Greg Pierce, Nan Rush, Kathleen Maule, Jane Gamble, Amy Yoder

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