

Life at The Lutheran Home at Topton

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A P U B L I C A T I O N O F



including the Caum Memorial Home

Anniversary Celebration of Lutheran Home at Topton to be “A Heritage Harvest”

Food, games, dancing and lots of fun is sure to be a good bet at this year’s 105th anniversary of The Lutheran Home at Topton slated for Saturday, Sept. 29. This year’s theme is “A Heritage Harvest.”

In comparison to previous years, this year’s event has taken on new meaning. “We want people to have fun and share in our rich heritage as well as showcase what The Lutheran Home and Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries has to offer the community. We have so much more than people realize,”

and the annual 2 mile walk to benefit the dementia unit. A country breakfast, sponsored by CURA Hospitality, Inc., will be served in the cafeteria beginning at 9 a.m.

The annual Children’s Services Adoptive and Foster Family Reunion will also begin at 9 a.m. with the ever-popular Teddy Bear parade to follow at 11 a.m. This year’s theme for the parade is, “A Day in the Country.” Children who wish to participate in the parade should dress a teddy bear in the spirit of the theme. Registration for the parade begins at 10 a.m. and prizes will be awarded.

Visitors can enjoy the sounds of the Anniversary Day Chorus, the Mark P. Thomas Ensemble and the Allentown Band as well as a performance by the Luther Haven Players.

An apple and pumpkin recipe bake-off, pumpkin painting, a scarecrow decorating contest and youth harvest dance for grades 6,7,8 & 9 are just a few of the new events that have been added to the day’s



Above: Tom Reinsel, vice president of congregational relations, sits with last year’s participants of Children’s Services’ Annual Teddy Bear Parade.

says Theresa Engelmann, executive director of the Topton campus. “And we want to tell everyone about our mission, programs and services.”

The day will begin at 8 a.m. with a worship service, flag raising ceremony

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From the Executive Director



*Terry A. Lieb
Executive Director,
Family Life Services*

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The Lutheran Home at Topton is one of 22 retirement communities operated by Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries, which also offers a range of specialized programs for children, individuals, and families.

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*Visit us at our website,
www.diakon.org*

For the past 20 years Family Life Services has custom-designed several hundred programs for congregations, various church related groups and community organizations.

It's amazing to look back over the files and realize how the topics and directions for the programs have changed and evolved over the years. Some of the programs have clearly met an ongoing need and have become permanent programs.

A good example would be the Marriage Preparation series which was first designed in the early eighties in response to a request from the Hamburg Cluster. Today, it has evolved in a very successful, ongoing ministry and is offered four times a year in Berks County and once a year in Schuylkill County.

Some of the other programs are a one-time Sunday morning presentation, others are a weeknight series, or sometimes a weekend retreat. And still others turn out to be a weekly support group.

The success of our custom-designed programming is due to a number of factors. First, a needs

assessment is done by the church professionals and lay leaders serving on the front lines. Then whenever possible, Family Life Services staff includes potential participants in the actual design of the program to make sure it will meet their needs.

We have full-time staff who are open and excited about responding to the evolving needs of congregations, families and community groups throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania.

And finally, we have built a network of over eighty master and doctoral level independent contractors who have an extensive and highly diversified skill base to help design and staff the programs.

This particular area of ministry keeps us "on our toes" and current with today's events. To discuss a need of your congregation or organization, give us a call at 1-888-499-2699.

-Terry A. Lieb
Executive Director

Author Shares Her Personal Experience With Alzheimer's at Diakon Facilities

More than 300 people

in Pennsylvania and Maryland learned valuable tips to "Visit Mom," especially if "Mom" or other loved one has Alzheimer's disease or another form of cognitive impairment.

That knowledge is the result of the May visit of Dr. Sherry Bell, author of the book, *Visiting Mom, An Unexpected Gift*, A guide for visiting elders with Alzheimer's.

The author gave presentations at The Lutheran Home at Topton, Pa.; Ravenwood Lutheran Village, Hagerstown, Md.; Frey Village, Middletown, Pa.; Ohesson Manor, Lewistown, Pa.; and The Village at

Robinwood, a retirement village at Hagerstown, Md., developed jointly by Diakon and Washington County Health System, Inc. Bell also signed books at two special sessions at book stores in Camp Hill and Whitehall, Pa.

In addition to describing the journey she and her mother, Grace, have taken since Grace has been affected by Alzheimer's disease, the Sedona, Ariz. author detailed steps caregivers can take to make visits pleasant and enjoyable for everyone.

In a humorous, sympathetic style, Bell described the "gangs" of people who followed her and her mother on their move from the Detroit area, of

pots of water boiled for hours by a woman who had been a superb cook, and of the difficult day nursing-home care became necessary.

In her presentations, Bell detailed the steps she takes in visiting her mother, includ-

ing greetings, hugs, and her special "Treasure Book" that helps her mother remember precious moments from the past.

For more information on Bell and her book, visit her website at www.eldervisit.org.

Anniversary Celebration continued from page 1

festivities.

A hot dog roast, bar-be-que and square dancing demonstration will wrap-up the day.

Other activities such as the alumni reunion, children's games, crafts, silent quilt auction, local farmer's market, flea market, the Brandywine Library book sale and petting zoo are planned throughout the day. Tours of the Christmas Putz and the retirement accommodations will be offered.

Information about all the programs and services that are available at Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries will be available.

For more information about The Lutheran Home at Topton's anniversary celebration, call 610-682-1400 or log on to our website at www.diakon.org.



*Above: Sherry Bell, Ph.D., signs her book, *Visiting Mom: An Unexpected Gift*, for a guest at the book signing at Barnes and Noble in Whitehall. The book signing and presentation at The Lutheran Home at Topton attracted more than 100 people.*

Caum Resident Receives Alvernia College Award

Ann Witman loves to write poetry. She has written numerous pieces of poetry for fellow Caum Home residents to celebrate their birthdays, anniversaries or just to make a day special.

Her enthusiasm and gift of writing poetry led Sally Lengel, administrator of the Caum Home, to nominate her for Alvernia College's Annual Human Service and Life History Award for Older Adults. Persons 60 years of age or older were able to submit writings under

the theme, "Reminiscing." Anna's winning entry, "Ringing Rocks," speaks of the days when she and her husband would perform musical concerts for audiences at the "ringing rocks," a area where falling rain made the rocks literally ring. She wrote a brief history of the area and how the Indians gave the area its name.

According to Lengel, this is the second straight year that Anna won the award. "Anna is always willing to share her poetry with other resi-



Above: *Caum Memorial Home resident, Anna Witman, received the Human Service and Life History award for her excellence in poetry writing from Alvernia College.*

dents at the Caum Home, says Lengel. "She has an outstanding gift and openly shares it with others."

HHCC Resident Receives Literacy Award

Two years ago, Henry Health Care Center resident, Jack Bainbridge, struggled to read. Frustrated, he contacted the



Above: *Jack Bainbridge works with his tutor, Drena Brooks, on one of his reading lessons.*

Reading/Berks Literacy Council to see if he could get a tutor to come to the Henry Health Care Center at The Lutheran Home. To his delight, the Council sent Drena Brooks, who has been his reading tutor ever since.

Working twice a week for about an hour, Jack has been able to move up three grade levels since working with a tutor.

Recently, Jack received the Most Determined Student

of the Year from the Literacy Council. Ms. Brooks submitted his name in recognition of his dedication to learning and his personal accomplishment.

"Jack is a great student. He really works hard and is making great strides in his reading," says Ms. Brooks. "He 's become a tenacious reader."

Not only did Jack want to learn to read to better himself, but to help others who have helped him..

"I would really like to get a high school diploma," says Jack. "Because I want to be able to give something back to The Lutheran Home for all they have done for me."

“Children Are the Stars of Our Future” Benefactors Dinner 2001

Dedicated, caring, loving, generous....these are just a few words used to describe Col. Harry and Ardath Yoder, the honorees of the 13th Annual Benefactors Dinner held at the Sheraton Reading Hotel in Wyomissing. This year's event raised nearly \$130,000 to benefit children's services of The Lutheran Home at Topton, a program of Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries.

Residents of Boyertown, the Yoders were selected as honorees for their long-standing history with The Lutheran Home and their generous support of the children's services program. Harry served as a member of The Lutheran Home at Topton's

board of trustees, its development committee and co-founded the Benefactors Dinner 13 years ago.

Ardath, a dedicated wife and mother, is a retired home economics teacher of Shillington High School and managed the high school cafeteria.

An endowment fund has been established in honor of the Yoders to assist Children's Services, which includes foster care and foster-to-adopt, adoption services, pregnancy services, children's day care and after-school programs, children's bereavement camp, residential services for adjudicated youth, counseling and educational services and community ministries.

The Yoder's are the parents of two adoptive children, a son and a daughter. They also have three grandchildren.



Above: President and CEO of Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries, The Rev. Dr. Daun McKee and his wife Mary Jo lead the children's teddy bear parade during the 13th Annual Benefactors Dinner.



Left: Honorees Harry and Ardath Yoder; take time to sit and speak with the children that attended the Benefactors Dinner. The Yoders were honored for their outstanding dedication and generosity to the children's services program.

School Items Needed for Children

Did you ever wonder

how you can make a person smile while hardly lifting a finger? Read on. The Advancement office has compiled a “wish-list” of items that would make a world of difference to some of the children and adults we serve through Diakon.

Items needed for Children's Services

Backpacks - \$15 each

Paper, pencils & notebooks - \$15/set

Gym sneakers - \$45 per pair

Books - \$25 per book

Videos - \$15 - \$25 per video

Personal care items - \$15 per set

Dance lessons - \$40 - \$60 per month, per child

Music lessons - \$25 per week, per child

Items needed in the Henry Health Care Center:

Fall out chairs - \$1,700 each

(2 or 3 needed) These chairs would help residents who are at a greater risk of falling.

If you wish to make a donation for any of the above items, please use the enclosed envelope and mark “wishlist” in the area listed as “other”, or call the Advancement office at 1-800-582-2230, extension 1219, or (610) 682-1219.

Artwork a Gift of Thanks and Gratitude

An experience more than 40 years ago, has led to a gift of 19 original works of art, some by noted artist Walter Baum, that will grace the halls of the Henry Healthcare Center.

While in her thirties, Emma Dittman worked in a pharmacy in Pennsburg, Montgomery County. On her way to work one day, she encountered a young lady walking along side of the road. Emma stopped to offer the woman a ride. The woman accepted and told Emma that she had a child and, due to a series of misfortunes, could not afford to raise. She stated she just needed help until she could get back on her feet financially, but didn't know where to turn for help. Emma told the woman about the “Orphans' Home at Topton” and then contacted a pastor who was a member of the Board of Trustees at the Home. He baptized the baby and arranged for the little boy to stay at the Home until his mother could care for him.

During the four years the little boy stayed at the Home, Emma visited him every month bringing freshly baked cookies with her. The little boy and other children would run to greet her and looked forward to the cookies.



Above: “Autumn Near Sumneytown” is one work of art by Walter Baum donated by Emma Dittman.



Above: Emma Dittman shares her story about how The Lutheran Home at Topton befriended a young woman that she offered a ride to many years ago.

Thanks to the help from the Home, the young woman was able to get back on her feet and re-unite permanently with her son. It was this experience that left an indelible impression on Emma.

As an expression of her gratitude for the help the Home gave to the woman and her child, Emma has given her art collection as a gift to The Lutheran Home at Topton. “I hope that the art collection can bring

as much joy as it has given to me and enhance the quality of life of the residents and those who visit the Henry Healthcare Center,” says Mrs. Dittman.

Mrs. Dittman acquired the art collection from Mr. and Mrs. R. Leslie Chrimer, the owners of the pharmacy where she worked. The Chrimers were friends of Walter E. Baum, the noted artist from the Pennsylvania Impressionists school.

Banking Made Easier for Residents by First Union

Ease and convenience is what retirement living is all about and that includes your financial needs. That's why First Union Bank offers a full service financial center on the Topton campus.

According to Sherry Hausman, First Union financial specialist at Topton, the financial center is available to handle all consumer banking needs, from checking or savings



accounts to establishing an estate plan, applying for a personal loan or buying and redeeming certificates of deposit. Hausman says, "By having a bank on site, residents can bank where they want, when they want and how they want."

First Union provides many options to handle financial needs

such as an on-site Specialty Banker available for personal customer appointments for complicated transactions, as well as teller transactions, and making a deposit or transfer.

For added convenience, residents can call First Union's 24-hour bank phone line or access their financial information on-line at www.firstunion.com.

The on-site financial center is open Monday, Thursday and Friday from 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. and the financial specialist is available by appointment at the center or in a resident's home on campus.

Hausman stresses that the center can accommodate the staff on the Topton campus as well. "Absolutely. We're there for the entire campus," says the specialist.

For more information regarding the financial services available on the Topton campus, call Sherry Hausman at 610-682-7392.

Caum Memorial Home Wishlist

Our residents are active

people. Our goal is to provide them with items to help them stay active. There are a number of items that would help us achieve that goal.

Table lamps - \$100-\$150

Floor lamps - \$150-\$200

DVD/VHS entertainment videos - \$15-\$30

Exercise tapes (tai chi, yoga, line dance, etc) - \$15

1lb. hand wights - \$3.95 each

Portable tape/CD player - \$50

Handbells (3 sets) - \$32.25 set

Automatic blood pressure device - \$50-\$100

Rhythm band set - \$122

Domino set - \$30

Stethoscopes (2) - \$20-\$40

If you wish to make a donation for any of the above items, please use the enclosed envelope and mark "wishlist" in the area listed as other or call the Advancement office at 1-800-582-2230, extension 1219.

We're On the Web!

www.diakon.org

You can read "Life at The Lutheran Home at Topton" on the Diakon website, www.diakon.org. Just search for "The Lutheran Home at Topton" and click on "Newsletter." You can read the newsletters from other Diakon retirement communities. The website also contains a section for upcoming events on the Topton campus as well as across Diakon. Check it out!



Faith-based retirement care you can *believe* in.

The retirement communities of Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries offer an impressive range of living accommodations and services to meet your needs. Our staff is devoted to serving with integrity while meeting the emotional, spiritual and physical needs of your loved one. To become familiar with our full range of housing, services and care, call us for a tour or visit us on the web at www.diakon.org



THE LUTHERAN HOME AT TOPTON

Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries

CAUM MEMORIAL HOME

Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries

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