

Life^{at} Manatawny Manor

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A PUBLICATION OF



Students share knowledge and time with residents

Six residents of our Special Care Unit recently returned to high school to get an up-close look and a brief education on the lives and habits of several uncommon animals. Students in the Agri-Science program at Owen J. Roberts Senior High School served as teachers for our visit, sharing their

knowledge and providing the chance to touch and respond to the animals.

Residents got better acquainted with an emu, which the students had nurtured and hatched on-site, a ferret and a chinchilla. Together the students and residents also handcrafted flower petal wreaths and

planted ivy. Wreaths and plantings now adorn residents' rooms and the Manatawny Manor activity area.

The visit was such a success that both students and residents hope to repeat it regularly during the school year.



Resident Ruth Straubel talks with Agri-Science students at Owen J. Roberts Senior High School.

From the Executive Director

Manatawny Manor has the good fortune to be staffed by some of the most committed and caring professionals in the long-term care field. I feel blessed to be supported by such a super team, and I'd like to take this opportunity to tell you more about a few members of our administrative staff. You'll see that their backgrounds and experience demonstrate an outstanding level of dedication and professionalism.

Gina Cooke directs our Adult Day Services. Gina's career in caring for the elderly actually began at the age of 15, when she started working as an aide at Berks Heim on weekends and summers. Through her three years of nursing school at St. Joseph's Hospital in Reading, she continued as an aide there and then stayed on for several

more years as a Registered Nurse. From there Gina served as director of nursing at Beverly Manor in Reading. In 1987 she joined us at Manatawny Manor and has headed our Adult Day Services program for the past 15 years. Her professional commitment has extended into service with the Pennsylvania Adult Day Services Association (PASDA), holding various board positions for eight years and now serving as the group's education coordinator.

Gina lives in Berks County with her special needs daughter, Lizzy. She is active with Easter Seals and, for the past seven years, has coached a Little League Challenger team for special needs children. Her son, Joe, is a recent graduate of the Rochester (NY) Institute of Technology.

"I think being a caregiver myself has given me a very special gift to be able to be compassionate and supportive of the family caregivers I meet in our Adult Day Services program," Gina says.

Lora Gomboc is the newest member of the Manatawny Manor management team, and she brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to her position as nursing home administrator. Prior to joining our staff in October 2000, Lora was the administrator at St. Luke's Manor, another Diakon Facility, located in

Hazleton, Pa. Lora is a 1995 graduate of Penn State University and is currently working on her master's degree at the Harrisburg Campus.

Lora has been involved in long-term care for longer than you might expect. She was a certified nursing assistant at Frey Village, also a Diakon facility, from 1990 to 1996. She also was the Dementia Unit coordinator there for 1½ years and then the assistant director of Environmental Services, overseeing housekeeping and laundry functions.

During part of her tenure at Frey, Lora completed Diakon's Administrator-in-Training program.

Lora lives in Royersford with husband, Bob, and feline friend, Tabby. She is the very proud new aunt to Sarah Ann, the new baby daughter of her sister (and best friend!) Danielle. In her spare time Lora enjoys golfing and spending time at the beach.

I personally find Lora's enthusiasm and commitment to providing quality care for our residents very encouraging. We don't often see young people choose the administrative path in long-term care and we're proud to have her on our staff.

Finally I'd like to share some of my own background with you. I have been on the staff of Manatawny Manor since 1976. I came on board as an administrative

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Debby Dollar-Reid

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Visit our web site at
www.diakon.org



Renovations at the center of attention

A special two-day Open House

at the end of June served as a showcase for the extensive renovations that have been under way at Manatawny Manor for more than a year. Our Advisory Council helped to plan the event and serve as volunteer hosts.

Hundreds of visitors got a firsthand look at new fixtures and furnishings, the bright and beautiful new lobby and main corridor, the new physical therapy and rehabilitation area and dozens of other new touches throughout the facility. Local



Manatawny Manor newly renovated lobby.

dignitaries and healthcare professionals toured on the first day. The second day was open to the community at large.

Look for a complete overview of our renovations in the next issue of "Life at Manatawny Manor."

In honor of William Schurr

Given by: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gomboc
Given by: Manatawny Manor
Department Heads
Given by: Mr. and Mrs. Thomas P. Reid

In Memory of Charles Bramble

Given by: Mr. and Mrs. Jeffery M. Austin and Family
Given by: Mr. and Mrs. Donald Bramble
Given by: Mr. and Mrs. Harry R. Hoffman
Given by: Mr. and Mrs. Everett F. Morrow
Given by: Mrs. Gloria B. Swoyer
Given by: Mr. and Mrs. Carl R. Talley, Sr.

In Memory of Maydean Brunner

Given by: Mrs. Barbara D. Daub

In Memory of Helen O'Neill

Given by: Mses. Joan and Naomi Grunwell

In Memory of Clarence Schurr

Given by: Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Bartholomew
Given by: Mr. Bill Dorminey
Given by: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gomboc
Given by: Manatawny Manor
Department Heads
Given by: Mr. and Mrs. James Matz
Given by: Mr. and Mrs. Thomas P. Reid
Given by: Mrs. Margaret D. Shaner
Given by: Ms. Lucille Snyder
Given by: Mr. and Mrs. Louis H. Stetler
Given by: Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Winnies

Special celebration honors grandparents

More than 100 family members gathered in the all-purpose room of the Assisted Living Special Care Unit recently to pay special tribute to grandparents. A "Happy Grandparent's Day" banner adorned the walls and make-your-own sundaes were the featured treat.

Resident Kay Johnston's granddaughter, Natasha Dakota, started it all. She told a staff member in the Special Care Unit how sad she felt because her grandmother could never attend Grandparent's Day

activities at her school. So the Unit staff decided to have their own celebration.

A specially designed copy of the verse "Connection" was presented to every grandparent. It reads, "Grandchildren are God's helpmates in charge of softening our hearts and opening our eyes and ears to the simple sights and sounds that bring us joy. Grandparents are in charge of



Resident Dorothy Schaller enjoys time with granddaughters Tabitha, 11, and Sabrinaza, 6, at the Grandparent's Day celebration.

gentle loving and forgiveness, for persevering and strengthening the heart connection in your family."

The occasion was made more memorable by resident Marion Umstead's family, who gathered to celebrate her 89th birthday.

Residents and students show off their green thumbs

On a beautiful spring day in May, a team of assisted living residents and students from Owen J. Roberts Middle School took up their garden tools to plant and prune the "Secret Garden" at Manatawny Manor. The gardening team worked hard first at weeding and then planting both annuals and perennials.

Tucked away behind the facility and reachable only if you know the way, the garden is fast becoming a special spot for residents and their

visitors. Residents of our special care unit and adult day care participants often use the enclosed area for a little recreation and relaxation.

On your next visit to Manatawny Manor, ask us about our "Secret Garden." We'll be happy to show you the way.



Students from Owen J. Roberts Middle School plant and weed the "Secret Garden" while residents assist and supervise.

Manatawny Manor Wish List

June 4, 2002

Awning to cover courtyard patio in adult day services area, \$6000

China closet for each dining room, \$2000 - \$5000

Computers with internet capability, \$1000 - \$3000

Semi-recumbent exercise cycle, \$1200

Plant habitats, \$1000 - \$2000

Aviaries, \$1000 - \$3000

Aquarium, \$1000 - \$2000

Treadmill, \$1000

Patio furniture, \$1000 - \$8000

Wheelchair (s), \$1000 each

Lounge chairs, \$1000 each

Flowers for tables in each dining room, \$400 - \$800

Artwork, \$350 - \$600

VCR tapes (movies, music etc.), Under \$100

Wheelchair and walker bags, Under \$100

Donation memorializes The Rev. George Scheitlin

Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

of Pottstown recently made a generous donation to the Adult Day Services program at Manatawny Manor in memory of the Rev. George Scheitlin. Scheitlin served as Chaplain for our campus for a brief time before his recent passing. Though he was only at Manatawny Manor for three months, Scheitlin's service here touched many lives in positive ways. Our staff, residents and families will miss him.

Plans are to use the donation to purchase new furniture for the recently renovated space for participants in our Adult Day Services program.

Book donation goes easy on the eyes

Residents of the assisted living community

at Manatawny Manor have received a generous donation of large print library books from the Lutheran Brotherhood Pottstown Branch #8633. The Bibles and devotional materials are a welcome addition to the book collection, and easy on the eyes of older readers.

The Branch has been distributing large print reading material through local Lutheran congregations for several years, using it as an opportunity for young people in the churches to interact with senior members and learn about community service.

The donation to Manatawny Manor was coordinated through

Boy Scout Troop #36, which meets at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Gilbertsville and includes many church youth in its membership.

At a gathering to present the books, the Scouts spent time talking with residents and reviewing the large print material with them. Scout Kevin Bazzell treated the audience to some fine bugle playing.

The large print books will be a long-lasting contribution to brighten the lives of our residents. As for the Boy Scouts, the book donation has encouraged them to build on their community service commitment and to continue to foster relationships with their new friends at Manatawny Manor.

Staff member honored for Air Force Reserve service

You may know

Stephanie Hollos as a physical therapy aide at Manatawny Manor. But you may not know that she's also a Technical Sergeant in the Air Force Reserve. In fact, Hollos has been named "NCO of the Year 2001" for the 913th Airlift Wing at the Willow Grove Air Reserve Station.

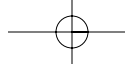
After 3½ years of active duty as a wideband communications specialist, Hollos joined the reserves at Willow Grove in 1990. She has served in information management since then. The 913th Airlift Wing at Willow Grove provides air transportation for airborne forces, their equipment and supplies.

Hollis will be attending the Air Force Association convention in Washington, D.C., in September in recognition of her accomplishment. Her colleagues and friends at Manatawny Manor salute her as well!

Bowlers score a good time for a good cause

Manatawny Manor employees and families lined up at the lanes to help raise money during the annual Lutheran Brotherhood Chapter 8633 bowl-a-thon. Manatawny Manor was chosen to be one of the beneficiaries of the fundraiser, which includes matching dollars from the Brotherhood. A check for \$1,700 will be presented to the campus in July. A big THANKS goes out to all who bowled and those who supported the team with monetary pledges.





Executive Director *Continued from Page 2*

nurse, and then worked as inservice director, orienting and training aides and other nursing staff. In September 1977 I became assistant director of nursing, a position I held for about a year, and then director of nursing. After five years in that role, I became the administrator in June 1983, taking on responsibility for overall operations and management of the nursing facility, assisted living unit and adult day care services. Nearly 20 years later, I still serve in that capacity. When Manatawny Manor became part of the Diakon organization in November 1998, my title changed to executive director. My professional background also includes about 10 years as a hospital staff nurse, private duty nurse and

charge nurse. I am a graduate of Abington Memorial Hospital School of Nursing.

I am active on the boards of the local United Way and Pottstown Area Seniors' Center. I also am a member of the Pennsylvania Association of Non-Profit Homes for the Aging and a certified fellow of the American College of Health Care Administrators. And I serve on the nursing program advisory committee of Montgomery County Community College.

My family includes my husband, Tom, three children, two stepchildren and seven grandchildren. Outside the office, I love to be outdoors. I enjoy gardening and hiking and my favorite place to visit is Cape Cod. And, as

our staff and most residents will tell you, I have a "thing" for teddy bears. My extensive collection includes many that have been given to me by my Manatawny Manor friends.

I share all this with you so that you can be aware of the level of professionalism our staff brings to their lives here at Manatawny Manor. We all do our very best to maintain a compassionate and respectful environment and a high quality of life for our residents and extended family. At the heart of it, I think you can see that we're really just people who care very much about other people.

**- Debby Dollar-Reid
Executive Director,
Manatawny Manor**

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