

RIVERSIDE IDYLL

News from The House of the Good Shepherd

January 2021



Snow shovel? Check! Red plaid coat? Check! Jesse and Will are ready for the first snow. Many thanks to all our maintenance staff who work to keep us safe during winter storms!

We are now in Year 2 of the Covid-19 pandemic and doing our best to cope with the new realities. And of course, we are in winter in New Jersey, with one major snow storm behind us to test our abilities to multi-task.

This time around we have many more advantages in handling the virus: staff who have been through it already, lessons learned, and our ability to test residents or staff who experience symptoms in real time with rapid test kits. But even with

**Thoughts
from Sue**

this knowledge, this is a tough time, and we must all remember to be grateful to each other for support, good will and some much-needed laughs from time to time. I know I continue to harp on personal responsibility but everyone doing their part makes it easier for us to stay safe. Despite reminders, we still see some independent campus members going out to the community daily and we hear of some having unauthorized visitors. These practices put everyone at risk, but it takes personal awareness and changed behaviors to have a heart for all our campus members. If this is

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Living well along the Musconetcong River in Hackettstown, New Jersey



From the Editor

Best wishes and prayers for a happy New Year! We begin this year with good news of the first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine being given to 125 of our community members.

We also meet **Chet Johnstone** and **Shannon Morgan** and learn how they came to be part of the House of the Good Shepherd.

Have a story idea? Share them by email (scarty@hotgs.org) or ext. 5931. Thanks for reading the *Riverside Idyll*.

The Rev. Shawn Carty, *Editor*

Deadline for next issue: Jan. 27

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you, can you please alter your behavior for a few more months?

We were blessed to have residents and staff get our first Covid-19 vaccine on Tuesday, Jan. 5! Walgreens, our Pharmacy Partner, was able to vaccinate 125 residents and staff. Thank you to **Kristina Partika** and **Amy Mackewicz** for helping organize us for this event!

When and if you can, remember to look at our majestic Musconetcong River which runs along the length of our property. It is a source of beauty and a reminder that the our founders selected this location as a place of peace and healing for those who live here. A quick look at the river or even viewing a picture of it, reminds you that you are in a special place.

If you need news about Covid-19, our Coronavirus Hotline, has been providing a brief, recorded message on Covid-related items on our campus since March.

Thank you to our wonderful staff and residents for your patience as we navigate into the New Year! Wishes to all for a healthy New Year!

Sue Lanza, *CEO and President*

Covid-19 Hotline

(908) 684-5721

*Recorded message updated
Monday-Friday by 5 p.m.*

Meet Chet Johnstone

I had the pleasure of speaking with Chet Johnstone in Independent Living. I hope you enjoy reading his story as much as I enjoyed talking with him. - Ed.

When did you first come to the House of the Good Shepherd?

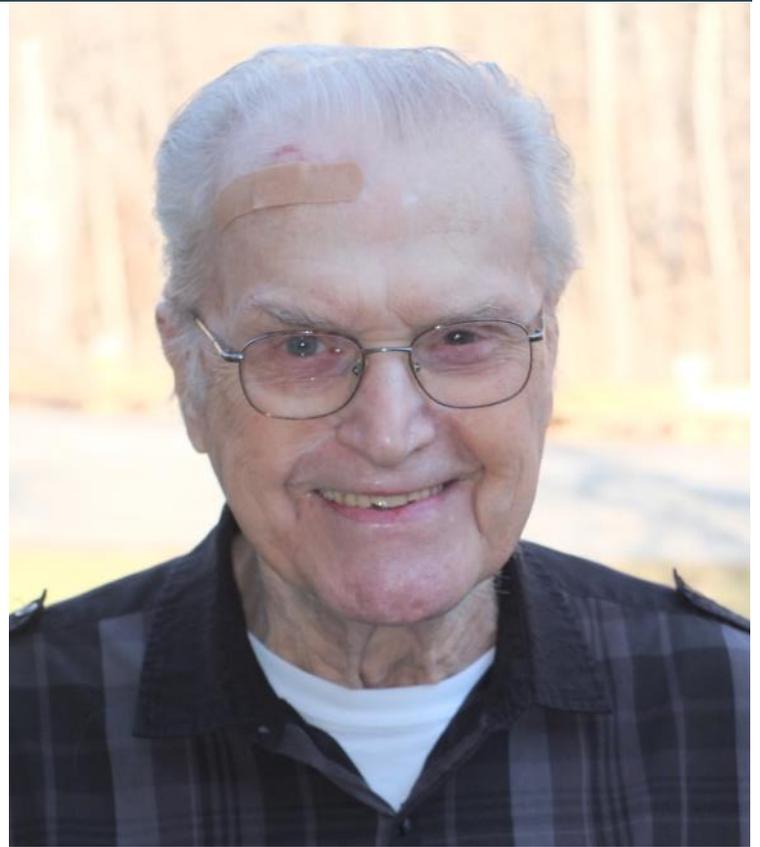
My first time was as a visitor years ago to teach a class on flycasting. When I moved here in 2015, that memory of the class came back to me, I saw the Musconetcong River, and knew this was the place I wanted to be. I lived on Paulinskill Lake in Sussex County for about 20 years. When my wife died, my daughter and three sons suggested I move here. People were friendly on my first visit and they still are now.

Where did life's travels take you before coming to the House?

I grew up in Newark, joined the Army, and went to Kyoto, Japan after World War II as the country was being rebuilt. I served as a MP and after that I went to art school on the GI Bill. As a kid, I was always sketching and drawing, including spending hours at the Newark Museum drawing from the collection there. After art school, I went into commercial art. Even if I didn't like my bosses from time to time, I loved the work and enjoyed the creative process and the creative people I got to work with over the years.

Tell us about your love of fishing.

I grew up as a street-smart city kid but I my dad would take me for trips to the



country. I remember as a young boy when we were by a stream. He pointed at a trout swimming in the water. From that moment I was fascinated with trout and have spent my life as a fisherman. Fly fishing has been a passion all my life and I love

being outdoors. Did you know there are more books written about trout



Good fishing friends along with a collection of dry flies tied by Chet

than about any other kind of fish? When you go fishing in fast water, up to your chest, everything disappears and you are free. You can't hear a phone ringing or anyone trying to get your attention. You can escape from the world and be free in a place where all you see is beauty.

Christmas at the House of the Good Shepherd



Helen and Gloria take the Christmas Cheer Cart on the road to visit residents in the Village. With decorations both traditional and surprising, The House found ways to celebrate Christmas during challenging times.



Riverside Greenhouse of Andover donated over 100 poinsettias to The House. Thank you!

Marketing News

The marketing team has been busy! **Christina McLaughlin**, our Director of Sales and Marketing, hosted a live virtual holiday decorating event on Dec. 10 for prospective residents. Nearly 20 people attended and all had a great



time. Christina hand-delivered 30 boxes with cookies, icing, decorative sugars, and everything needed to create a beautiful holiday cookie. Those who attended learned about the history of Christmas cookies and a step-by-step

demonstration on the best way to artistically decorate cookies. The event was truly festive and appreciated by those who attended.

We are also thrilled to share that we have completed the model cottage as a showcase for prospective residents. You will see from the photo how beautiful Cottage 1 is and how the furnishings and décor show the potential our homes offer. This effort is all part of a renewed effort to attract new residents to the community.

In January we will focus on elevating our virtual tour experience with new videos and photos of the campus to highlight the wonderful life that can be lived here at The House. We look forward to sharing those with you when the project is completed.



Shannon Morgan

Meet Shannon Morgan, our Director of Activities. She has a big heart for our residents and works with our fantastic recreation staff to provide engaging activities. - Ed.

How did you come to this work?

I started working at the House July 2012 as an activity assistant and became a supervisor in 2015. In March 2016, I became Director of Activities and earned my Activity Director Certificate in January 2019. I have always had a passion to work with the elderly. My mother was a nurse in an assisted living facility when I was little and I would go with her to work when I was off from school. At the age of 10, the residents “adopted” me as a granddaughter and I still remember them and the special moments I shared with them.

What do you enjoy most about working here at the House?

My favorite part of my job is bringing joy to the residents and their families. I really like to see the residents smile. Doing activities during the pandemic is definitely different but we try to be as creative as we can. I can't wait for the time we can all be together again. I have a strong sense of compassion for others and I feel that in my work here. We have close connections with the families of residents, especially during this pandemic, and we try to keep that connection strong with families



whether it's with window visits or sending pictures to family members.

Could you tell us about your family?

I'm the youngest of eight kids. I'm married to Tyler and we have two daughters: Blake (3) and Meadow (18 months). We have two dogs, Gunner and Nala. My favorite thing is to spend time with family. We enjoy going to Chincoteague, Virginia and to Florida for vacation to visit my brother and his kids (which we couldn't do this year).

Tell us about the recreation staff.

They are the best! I can't say enough about them. They care so much about the residents and are creative, compassionate, and dedicated. I am so thankful for them and their hard work.

Shining Stars

Margaret Steffy & Tita Gonzalez

Thank you for the stellar job you do keeping up with the reusable gown supply on the HCU. It makes a big difference in our PPE supply!



From Amy Mackewicz Dec. 7, 2020

New Employees

A warm welcome to new employees who have started at the House last month.

- **Pamela Dominguez**
Dietary Aide

Know someone who might make a good member of the team at the House? Employees can receive a bonus for referring new employees. Job openings are posted near the Second Floor receptionist, on the First Floor by the ATM machine, and online. For more information talk with Gina Arnone or visit our website and click on "Employment Opportunities."

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Employees of The House received fleece jackets with the embroidered House logo. We are grateful for all who work here! Special thanks to Shannon Morgan, Rose Florie, Lindsay Burnet, Amy Mackewicz, Parker Greenough, and Colleen Madonna for preparing the gift bags for our staff.



Just for Fun

Auld Lang Syne Inauguration
 Beginning January
 Boots Martin Luther King
 Calendar New Year
 Chet Johnstone Shannon Morgan
 Dream Skating
 Epiphany Skiing
 Garnet Snowflake
 Icicles Twenty-one

Z P R G Y N L K Y Q L M F B C
 S K A T I N G N I N N I G E B
 F B D Z K E K A L F W O N S G
 L E N Y S G N A L D L U A V Y
 T W E N T Y O N E X A J G V G
 M P L G O N I E V D P A R H T
 W V A W O A T I I W R N O S W
 R P C P B H A O L N B U M Z T
 J A S P S P R G E P D A N S E
 Q H E H Z I U T N I A R O E W
 U V K Y S P G V S E D Y N L Y
 S X M D W E U I P V P M N C B
 V M X D R E A M W I Y N A I G
 W E N O T S N H O J T E H C X
 O K N C Q G I G N I I K S I S

Knock knock. Who's there?
Abby. Abby who?

Abby New Year!



This issue has 4 lost sheep. Did you find them?

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