

# RIVERSIDE IDYLL

News from *The House of the Good Shepherd*

March 2021



*As the snow melts, signs of spring begin to emerge! These green shoots of growing daffodils were spotted by the front driveway*

Spring can't get here fast enough this year! Clocks go forward soon, so there will be more daylight to enjoy our gorgeous location. The weekend after that, we welcome Spring. But don't forget that even with Spring arriving, the snow can still pay a visit. Let's hope not.

We announced a few weeks ago our plan to reduce our capacity on our Skilled Unit to 28 beds, effective March 1.

## Thoughts from Sue

Like many other communities, our census has declined with Covid-19 and more people opting for home instead of long term or sub-acute care. This is a big change for our staff and we appreciate their cooperation as we adapt to new staffing patterns and structure.

We continue to remind our staff to get vaccinated to help keep us all safe. For those residents and staff who have been vaccinated, we say thank you but ask you to remember to continue all the Covid-19 guidelines: mask wearing, social distancing, and handwashing. Even after being vaccinated, you can still be a carrier for the virus, even if you don't get sick yourself.

Enjoy the beginnings of nature re-opening as Spring arrives!

**Sue Lanza**, *CEO and President*

## In This Issue

- ◆ **In Memoriam: Vera Crane** p. 3
- ◆ **Retirements** p. 4
- ◆ **Christina McLaughlin** p. 5
- ◆ **Think Spring** p. 6
- ◆ **Staff News** p. 7
- ◆ **Just for Fun** p. 8

*Living well along the Musconetcong River in Hackettstown, New Jersey*

We “Spring Forward”  
and return to  
**Daylight Saving Time**

Sunday, March 14.

Set your clock ahead one hour  
before turning in Saturday night.

**Happy Spring!**

### ***From the Editor***

This month, we mark important milestones. First, we remember with affection **Vera Crane** who died Feb. 26 after 107 years of life and love. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

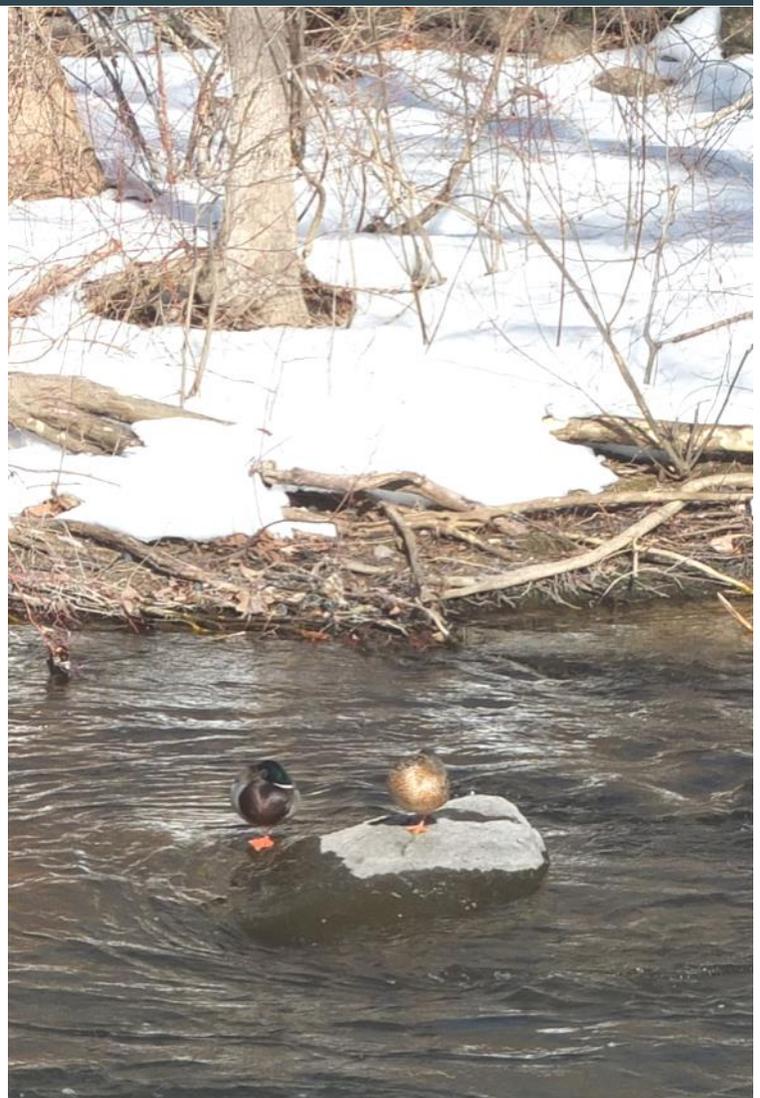
As they begin retirement, we give thanks for **Theresa Mutz** and **Gloria Napier** who retired recently after a long careers of a combined 76 years of service at the House. Wow!

And we meet **Christina McLaughlin**, our Director of Sales and Marketing. There is something quite mysterious about Christina, but you will have to read the article to find out what.

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

The Rev. Shawn Carty, *Editor*

**Deadline for next issue: Mar. 25**



*This pair of mallard ducks enjoyed a recent sunny day, resting on a rock in the stream of the Musconetcong River outside the House.*

**Covid-19 Hotline**

**(908) 684-5721**

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

*Vera Crane was our oldest resident at the House. Sadly, Vera died on February 26. We give thanks for Vera's life and offer our heartfelt condolences to her family and all who loved her. In loving memory, we share this from her family. - Ed.*

Vera Crane moved to the House of the Good Shepherd in October 2017. On November 30, 2020 she celebrated her 107th birthday. In 1923 Vera's family emigrated to America from Newfoundland and settled in Brooklyn New York. Vera was a member of All Saints' Episcopal Church in Brooklyn. She graduated from Manual Training High School and attended Pace College. Vera worked as an executive secretary in Citibank and was forced to retire at 65 years old. Her boss stated her beatitudes were many, "Vera is conscientious, cooperative, capable and dependent and never late from lunch or leaving early. Her fortitude was exemplary. Vera is highly regarded by management."

Vera enjoyed traveling, she visited Ireland, Canada, and all the wonders of the United States, collecting postcards. Family was the center of Vera's universe. She was the family historian, never missing a birthday or anniversary for five generations. She loved New York City and shared it with her nieces and nephews taking two at a time to the Statue of Liberty, Empire State Building, Radio City Music Hall, lunch at the Horn

& Hardart Automat, Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, and many of the churches and museums. Her summer vacations were spent visiting relatives with a nephew or niece in tow. When she retired from CitiBank in 1978 she became a volunteer at the Interfaith Medical Center. In April 2000 she received the United Hospital fund volunteer Achievement Award at a special ceremony at the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria. At St. Thomas Episcopal Church, New York, she enjoyed guiding tour groups and teaching visitors the history of the church and the city. Vera also served as a docent in the Trinity Church Museum. Vera spent many hours assembling gift packages for the Seamen and Mariners at the Seamen's Church Institute. In the summertime she volunteered at the World Methodist Camp Meetings in Ocean Grove. Vera enjoyed living at the House of the Good Shepherd and made many friends. She enjoyed going to the dining room and winning candy at Bingo. She loved reading, watching Jeopardy, and going to the chapel.



## Congratulations!

Hearty congratulations and best wishes to **Theresa Mutz** and **Gloria Napier** who recently retired from long careers at the House, a combined 76 years!

Theresa worked in our housekeeping department for 45 years. She began working here on weekends when she was in high school and has been a part of this community since 1976. Reflecting on her work at the House, Theresa noted she had seen many changes, but some things stay the same: "You get attached to people. The residents and staff have been like a family to me." Theresa plans to stay in the area to be close to family. She looks forward to relaxing, taking walks, and working on puzzles.

Gloria worked at the House for 31 years as a receptionist, executive assistant, and in our accounting and human resources. See last month's *Riverside Idyll* for more about Gloria's service at the House.

We are deeply grateful for Theresa and Gloria and wish you all the best in retirement.

**Thank you!**

**We will miss you!**



*Celebrating Retirement. Above: Theresa Mutz and her supervisor Tita Gonzalez on Theresa's retirement day, Feb. 26.  
Below: Gloria Napier on her retirement day, Mar. 5.*



# Christina McLaughlin

*Meet Christina McLaughlin, our Director of Sales and Marketing, who joined the House last November and brings a wealth of insight and experience with senior communities and interior design. - Ed.*

## **How did you get interested in serving as Director of Sales and Marketing?**

Early in my career, I worked in residential property management and found that I especially enjoyed helping seniors find living arrangements that were a good fit for their needs. I appreciate the stories and wisdom of seniors and it brings me a sense of joy to help match the best services available for a person. It's much more about the person than the process. For the last 25 years, I have focused on helping people in places like the House. I'm originally from Ohio and work has taken me all over, including South Carolina. For a time, I traveled extensively as a "mystery shopper" evaluating senior living communities around the country.

## **Tell us about "mystery shopping." That sounds like intriguing work.**

It is. Senior communities want to know how well they respond to prospective residents who ask for information. Or they want to know what's new with their competitors. So, they send out a mystery shopper to get an objective view of how things are going and see what kind of response comes from an inquiry. Visiting a wide range of places let me see how

welcoming they were and what their community offered. Walking into a place with fresh eyes means you notice things that others might miss. Whenever people look at a senior community, they do the same thing as they decide where they might move.



## **What do you see here at the House?**

In many ways, our name says it all. We're the House of the Good Shepherd and there is a sense of family and warmth to this community. I hear from employees and residents alike how much they regard each other as a large family. When people get to know us, they have a sense of this being a friendly place and a place of safety and protection, where we are shepherded. More than once I have used the phrase, *After all, we are the House of the Good Shepherd*. In my experience, people either feel that or they don't and the decision to move here is based on that.

## **What brings you joy away from work?**

I'm married and have five children and four grandchildren. We love beach vacations, entertaining, visiting wineries, and holiday decorating. Just recently, I became a Girl Scout leader for my youngest daughter's troop.



## Monadnock in Early Spring

Cloud-topped and splendid, dominating all  
The little lesser hills which compass thee,  
Thou standest, bright with April's buoyancy,  
Yet holding Winter in some shaded wall  
Of stern, steep rock; and startled by the call  
Of Spring, thy trees flush with expectancy  
And cast a cloud of crimson, silently,  
Above thy snowy crevices where fall  
Pale shrivelled oak leaves, while the snow beneath  
Melts at their phantom touch. Another year  
Is quick with import. Such each year has been.  
Unmoved thou watchest all, and all bequeath  
Some jewel to thy diadem of power,  
Thou pledge of greater majesty unseen.

— Amy Lowell, 1874-1925



One swallow does not make a summer, but one skein of geese, cleaving the murk of a March thaw, is the **spring**.

- Aldo Leopold

The older I grow the more do I love **spring** and **spring** flowers. Is it so with you?

- Emily Dickinson

**Spring**. March fans it, April christens it, and May puts on its jacket and trousers.

- Henry David Thoreau

**H**ave you received outstanding service from a staff member at the House? Or are you a staff member who noticed a coworker being especially helpful? If so, help recognize those efforts with a **Shining Star**. Forms are available at main entrances to make a nomination which will be shared with the staff member, his or her department head, and administration. They will also become part of the staff member's personnel file. Staff receiving a **Shining Star** are automatically considered for Employee of the Quarter.



## Staff Corner

### Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Staff are invited to wear something green **Wednesday, March 17** as we celebrate all things Irish. Lunch will be corned beef and cabbage with a special dessert.



### New Employee

*A warm welcome to*

**Helen Maloney, LPN**

*who joined us in February*

*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."*

# RELIAS

Are you up to date with your Relias trainings? Please check with your department head to make sure you have all current trainings completed. Thanks!

## Service Anniversaries

*We celebrate staff who mark anniversaries of service at the House this year. Well done!*

### 45 Years

**Theresa Mutz**  
*Housekeeping*

### 15 Years

**Darlene Fawthrop**  
*Housekeeping*

**Margaret Steffy**  
*Housekeeping*

### 10 Years

**William Canfield**  
*Maintenance*

**Pauline Wilk**  
*Dietary*

### 5 Years

**Matthew Blankenship**  
*Dietary*

**Phillis Dozois**  
*Reception*

**Mary Dragun**  
*Business Office*

**Lilia Kokareva**  
*Nursing*

**Kathryn Kresge**  
*Nursing*

**Donna Snider**  
*Nursing*

**Nicholas Vasquez**  
*Dietary*

**JoAnne Ward**  
*Nursing*

# Just for Fun

Aquamarine  
 Clocks  
 Daffodil  
 Daylight Saving  
 Ireland  
 Kite  
 Lamb  
 Lent

Christina McLaughlin  
 Saint Patrick  
 Retirement  
 Shining Star  
 Spring  
 Sprout  
 Vernal Equinox

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

Q. How does NASA  
 organize a party?

A. They planet.



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

## Administration

**Igor Agaronin, M.D.** Medical Director  
 igor.agaronin@atlantichhealth.org

**Gina Arnone** Human Resources  
 ext. 5739 garnone@hotgs.org

**William Ashby** Director of Plant Operations  
 ext. 5726 washby@hotgs.org

**Stephanie Bartell** Executive Assistant  
 ext. 5724 sbartell@hotgs.org

**Mark Campbell** Dietary Director  
 ext. 5929 mark.campbell@sodexo.com

**The Rev. Shawn Carty** Chaplain  
 ext. 5931 scarty@hotgs.org

**Hollie Driscoll** Chief Financial Officer  
 ext. 5734 hdriscoll@hotgs.org

**Tita Gonzalez** Housekeeping Supervisor  
 ext. 5927 tgonzalez@hotgs.org

**Susan Lanza, LNHA** CEO & President  
 ext. 5720 slanza@hotgs.org

**Marie Manzi** Director of Social Services  
 ext. 3906 mmanzi@hotgs.org

**Christina McLaughlin** Director of Sales & Marketing  
 ext. 5722 cmclaughlin@hotgs.org

**Shannon Morgan** Director of Recreation  
 ext. 5731 smorgan@hotgs.org

**Kristina Partika** Director of Admissions  
 ext. 5995 kpartika@hotgs.org

**Cynthia Raymundo, R.N.** Asst. Director of Nursing  
 ext. 5737 craymundo@hotgs.org

**David Sullivan** President of the Board of Trustees  
 attsully33@gmail.com

**JoAnne Ward, R.N.** Director of Nursing  
 ext. 5730 jward@hotgs.org

**Barbara Warne, R.N.** Director of Wellness  
 ext. 5938 bwarne@hotgs.org

