

RIVERSIDE IDYLL

News from The House of the Good Shepherd

September 2021



Hard to believe that summer will be ending soon. We had some nice events this summer and are looking forward to many more this fall.

With Covid still a threat to all, we will be complying with three projects from the New Jersey Department of Health and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services: Third Dose Vaccines (for eligible individuals), booster shots, and compliance with staff vaccination mandates. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has set guidelines for qualifying for Third Dose vaccinations and that is the first project. The booster shot information and staff vaccine mandates are expected to be released in September.

Thoughts from Sue

If you haven't received a Covid vaccine yet, but still want to get one, please contact **Kristina Partika**, Director of Admissions at 908-684-5995 or kpartika@hotgs.org and she will help get you scheduled for one.

Thanks for the support for our own Little Free Library at the House, which

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A Time to Remember

Please join us on **September 7 at 10:30 a.m.** on the front lawn at the House. First responders and community leaders will join us as we mark two decades since September 11, 2001.

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— from front page

was dedicated on August 25! It was a joy to collaborate with my daughter Elizabeth to make this donation to our River Walk and to all readers.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and our magnificent river!

Sue Lanza, CEO and President



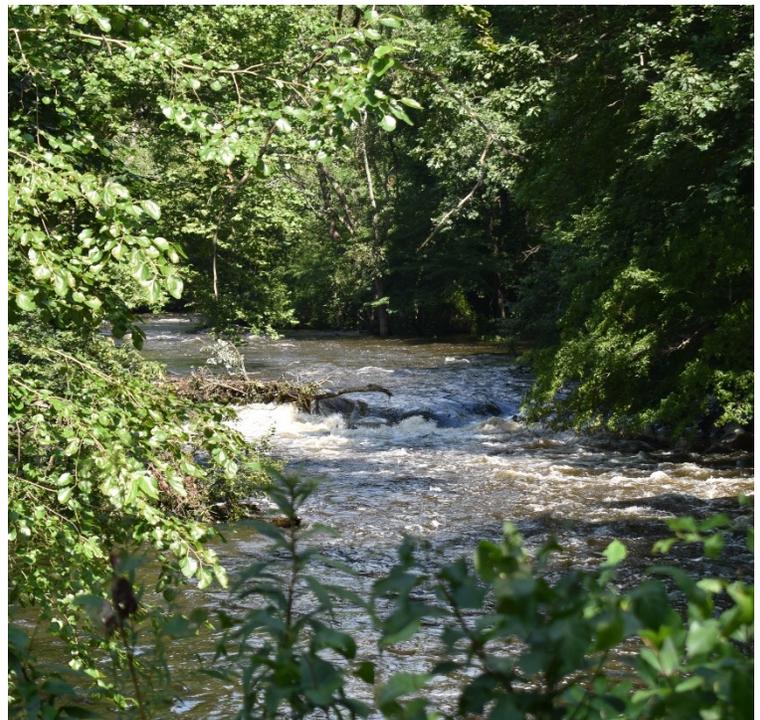
From the Editor

In this issue of the Riverside Idyll, we get acquainted with residents **George and Ann Senftinger**. We also meet **Hashiem Sabree**, who cooks in our Riverside Cafe. My thanks to each person for sharing his or her story!

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*

Items for next newsletter due: Sept. 24





August Scenes at the House

Clockwise, from top left: Suzanne celebrates a birthday; Lindsay and Ruth enjoy a visit as the traveling tea cart makes the rounds; Colleen and Eleanor share hats and smiles at tea time; cheerful flowers are refreshed after a recent rainstorm.



Employee Appreciation

A note from Kathy Ahrens on behalf of the Independent Living Residents' Council.

Letters requesting donations to the **Employee Appreciation Fund** went out to residents and families recently. Contributions to the fund are one way to express our thanks for the many kindnesses and extra services that we receive. Let's not forget our employees. This is our way of saying **"Thank You!"** for all they have done for all of us this past year. If it is more convenient to make your donation now, please do so. Or, if you prefer to wait until closer to the deadline of December 1, your contribution will be gratefully received then. If you have any questions, please call **Kathy Ahrens** at 908-684-5960.

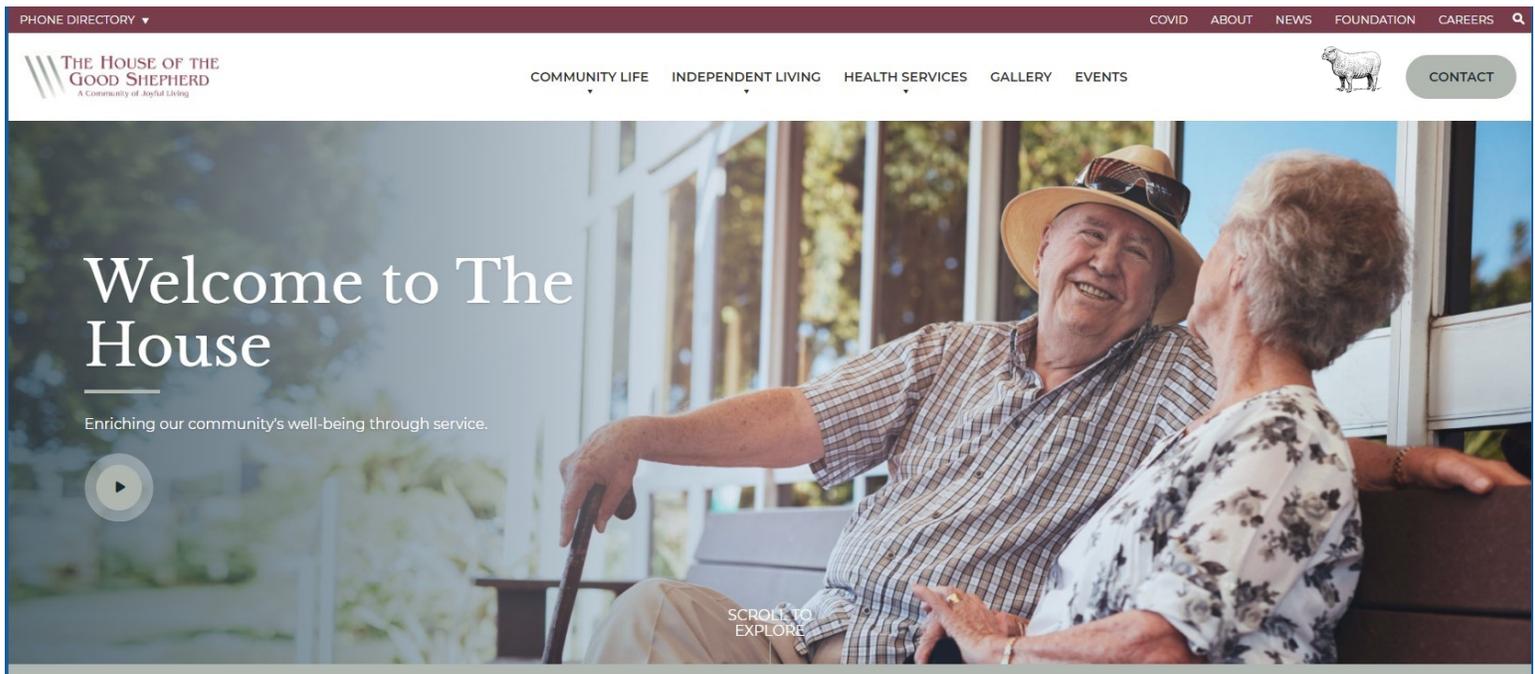
The House of the Good Shepherd Foundation

Since 1882, the House of the Good Shepherd has lent a helping hand and compassionate support to people in need. The Foundation for The House was established to raise philanthropic funds to support and enhance services for the residents and staff of our nurturing and joyful community. By investing in our fundraising programs, you are part of a legacy of giving that ensures the House will continue to provide these services for generations to come.

Please feel free to drop by the Development Office to learn more or call **Maureen Cameron** at 908-684-5952.

Please note: Due to a technical glitch in our phone system, you must dial the entire number to reach the Development Office, not just the extension.

Have you visited our website lately? It has a completely refreshed look with news, events, and other helpful information about the House. Take a look! Visit www.hotgs.org to learn more.



George and Ann Senftinger

Meet George and Ann Senftinger who moved to the House in May and live in Assisted Living. Welcome! - Ed.

Tell us a how you came to the House.

Our daughter Barbara was the one who found the House. She's a jewel! Barbara and her husband Robert live nearby in Hackettstown. Before moving here, we lived in New York City and then New Milford, New Jersey. We grew up in the



Bronx and have many memories of living there. We have been married 71 years and had a very happy life with many good things to enjoy over the years.

How and where did you meet?

After high school, we met at a dance. We were both parishioners at St. John Chrysostom Roman Catholic Church, which is where we met. George was working there as the sexton at a young age with so many men off to the war. Ann was asked to play piano or organ with George providing the muscle power to pump the organ. *Ann:* My mom saw George and said, "He's a nice guy—why don't you invite

him over for Sunday dinner?" So I did. George showed up with a dozen red roses and the rest is history. *George:* I guess I made a good impression!

We dated for a year or so and then married. We lived on Morgan Avenue, off Allerton Avenue in the Bronx, until moving to New Milford, New Jersey in 1969. We have one daughter, Barbara, and two grandsons, Peter and Richard. Just recently, our first great-grandchild was born. Her name is Vivian Alaina and she is beautiful!

George, tell us about your interests.

Growing up, my dad worked as a superintendent for apartment buildings, so I worked with him, including tending coal-fired boilers. Later, I became a plumber and did that for many years. When we had our house, I enjoyed doing some gardening. My family roots are German and I can still recite some of the prayers I learned as a child.

Ann, how about your interests?

My older sisters worked in the fashion industry, so I followed them into that field and designed women's sportswear. I love sewing, arts, crafts, crocheting, and needlework. When I was seven years old, Sr. Rose Denise taught me to play piano. I still remember her name and I have loved the piano ever since.

Any philosophy of life you would like to share with our readers?

Attitude can help you get through life a little easier than otherwise. God is good and we are thankful!

Hashiem Sabree

Visit our Riverside Cafe during the week and you will see Hashiem Sabree at work and get lunch and a friendly greeting. We sat down to talk about life and work. - Ed.

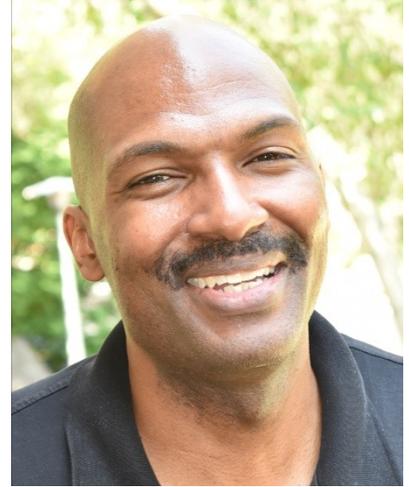
How did you start cooking here?

In 2015, I applied to work in the maintenance department. My wife worked here and knew Tita Gonzalez [our Housekeeping Director]. At the interview, Linda Gregg, who was Director of Dining Services then, asked me if I might be interested in cooking. I told her I didn't know how to cook but could make a "mean grilled cheese" and I liked to eat. She said it didn't matter, that I could learn on the job with Mark Campbell, our chef at the time. I'm always willing to learn and do other things, especially when someone is willing to show and teach me. So, I said, "I'm in!" Mark is a very patient teacher and gave me a good start. I will always be grateful for his teaching and support along with fellow cooks, Sergio, Mark Klein, Patrick, Matt, and Sarah (captain!) who started the cafe with me. I can't forget cooks not here now who taught me: Adrian and Mike.

How would you describe your way of cooking and serving at the cafe?

My hope is that folks know that I'm serving food that is made and served with love. Everyone who cooks knows that you are always learning with new ingredients and new techniques, but the bottom line is that we cook with love. I

have worked in other kitchens and can say that is not necessarily true in all places. If it doesn't have a sense of love, I don't want to serve it. Our kitchen is a place where people work together, help each other. I always find helping hands here. Anyone who walks by the kitchen can tell from the sounds that it is a good group of people who enjoy working with each other. This is a friendly place and we try to have fun while we do our work. I enjoy cooking and I enjoy getting to know people.



Where did you get such a positive outlook on life and work?

My family, and especially my mother. She was an easy person to talk with. She didn't care who you were, everyone was to be respected and nobody was to be looked down upon. One of my favorite sayings of hers is, "Don't look down on anyone because at any moment you can be in that position yourself." She also said, "You can always learn something from somebody." I believe everyone has a story they will tell you if you are willing to listen to them.

What do you enjoy away from work?

Spending time with family. My wife and I have three children and we have one granddaughter. I enjoy bowling and have even bowled a perfect game.

Staff Corner

A warm welcome to new employees joining the team at the House

- **Sheyla Castro, CNA**
- **Lisa Welenofsky**
Staffing Coordinator and Unit Clerk
- **Carolina Hincapie**
Housekeeper
- **Ariana Valerio**
Dietary Aide
- **Magnolia Osorio**
CHHA
- **Jillian Trillo**
Dietary Aide
- **Kayla Meisten**
Temporary Nursing Assistant
- **Jeffrey Garner, LPN**
- **Monika Adamczyk**
CHHA
- **Tammy Porter-Leitner**
Receptionist

Know someone who might make a good team member at the House? Employees can receive a bonus for referring new employees. Speak with Gina Arnone in HR or visit our website and click on Careers to learn more.



RELIAS

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

Happy Retirement!



*Best wishes to **Darlene Fawthrop** on the occasion of her retirement from the House! Pictured here with **Tita Gonzalez**, our Housekeeping Director, Darlene retires after 15 years of service in our Housekeeping Department. Congratulations!*



Final touches are made after the recent repaving project is completed along the riverside driveway at the House.

Just for Fun

Aster
 Corn on the Cob
 Labor Day
 Little Library
 Notebooks
 Pencils
 Remember
 Hashiem Sabree

Sapphire
 School
 Ann Senftinger
 George Senftinger
 September
 Tea Time
 Website

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

I sold my vacuum the other day.
 It was just collecting dust.



This issue has 3 lost sheep. Did you find them?

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