

RIVERSIDE IDYLL

News from The House of the Good Shepherd

February 2022



A recent snowstorm gave Sally Maynard a chance to enjoy some Nordic skiing at the House.

Mother Nature has visited us a few times already with snow! Thank you to our maintenance staff for their efforts to keep us safe during these storms.

Governor Murphy recently put out another Executive Order concerning vaccines which includes boosters as a requirement for employees. We will be looking into it further with more information out soon.

Speaking of vaccines, we recently had 15 residents and staff receive doses and boosters. Our next clinic to receive a dose or booster will be on Monday, Feb. 28. Please let **Kristina Partika** (kpartika@hotgs.org or 908-684-5995) know if you want to get on the list for any dose you are eligible for!

Thoughts from Sue

Yes, the noise is continuing with our First-Floor renovation project but things will need to get dirty before they get pretty again. We continue to thank you for your patience during our much-needed face lift!

Let us know any programs that you would like to see: drop a note to **Helen**

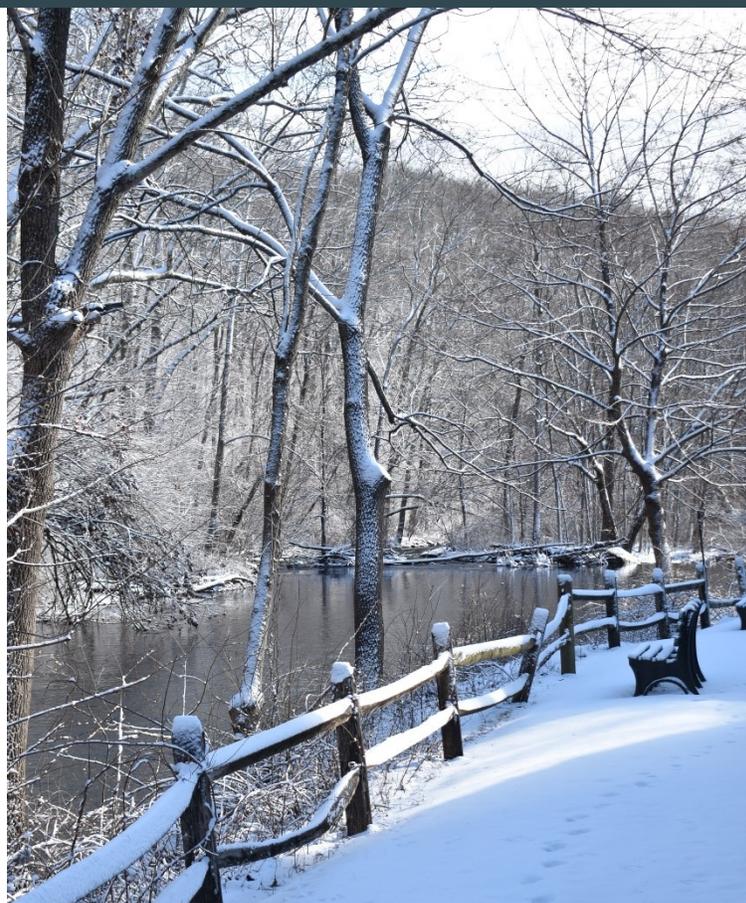
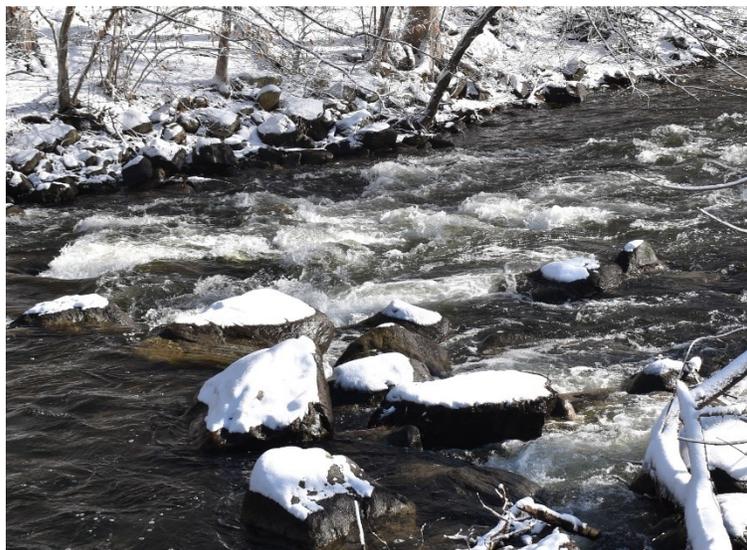
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Wysowaty for Independent Living ideas and to **Shannon Morgan** for any thoughts for Skilled, AL or CPC. Happy Valentine's Day and President's Day this month.

Stay safe & warm,

Sue Lanza, *CEO and President*



Scenes from a recent snowfall, including some pawprints in the snow outside the House.

From the Editor



This month please enjoy getting acquainted with **Sue Johnson**, **Sharon Gobo**, and **Mary Dragun** who are all featured in our newsletter.

This is my last newsletter as Editor as I plan to move to the Seattle area and be closer to family. It has been a great privilege to serve as Chaplain for the House these two years and to be part of the creation and editing of the *Riverside Idyll*. Thank you for reading!

A new editor has not been named yet, so in the meantime, please send items for upcoming newsletters to **Stephanie Bartell** (sbartell@hotgs.org).

The Rev. Shawn Carty, *Editor*



Sue Johnson

This month we meet Sue Johnson, a resident in Independent Living. Our Director of Development, Maureen Cameron, kindly interviewed Sue. Many thanks to Maureen and Sue for sharing their conversation!

Tell us how you came to The House.

A good friend of mine, Marilyn Paul, lived here and I frequently visited her as well as picking her up for our Red Hat Society meetings (more on that later!). Mary was well cared for here and, when it came time for me to move to Independent Living, I knew this was the place for me. I moved in two years ago and everyone here is so caring. I have had my share of health challenges and have stayed upstairs in Skilled Nursing as well, and the nursing and rehabilitation staff made my stay there as pleasant as possible. Independent Living here is great! I have a chef to cook my meals, a cozy apartment where I can relax and read, and the rehab staff, Angela and Wayne, come and check on me.

Tell us about your life journey.

I am a farm girl from Greenville, PA. Life on a farm is busy! I am the youngest of five children, and we all rode the hay wagon and learned to bake and sew. My mom made us dresses out of decorative feed sacks and then knitted sweaters to match! I never considered us poor because we had plenty to eat and we were happy.

I met my husband, Frederick, while attending nursing school in Meadville, PA and he was a student at Allegheny College. We were married the Saturday after I graduated from nursing school in 1962.

Frederick began his career as a chemist for Johnson and Johnson, and we had somewhat of a nomadic lifestyle as his work required us to move frequently. We moved eight times in 13 years and I loved it! Two of my favorite places to live were Pittsburgh and Chicago. In 1975 we settled in Hampton, NJ where we raised our two children. In addition to working for J&J, Frederick went on to successful careers at M&M Mars and Nabisco. We lived in Hampton until it was time to downsize and we moved into an apartment in Mansfield in 1993.



Our daughter Jodi is a high school librarian and lives with her husband Mike in Harpswell, Maine. They also have a home on an island in Maine and they named their daughter Morgandy, which means “little one from the edge of the sea.” They have lots of boats! My son Rick is in IT, and he and his wife Donna have three children, Jack, Wyatt and Piper, who keep them very busy ferrying them around to their many activities in Lancaster, PA. Rick is into fitness and is an avid runner, and when he comes to visit we sometimes exercise together!

Tell us a bit about your work and interests through the years.

I practiced nursing for 42 years, including 24 with the state of New Jersey, mainly working the overnight shift from 11 pm to 7

— continued on next page

Meet Sue Johnson — from previous page

a.m. with geriatric and psychiatric populations. Working nights meant I never had to miss any of my children’s activities during the day! My husband also had significant health issues for most of our marriage, so in addition to being a working mom on the night shift, he required a lot of my attention. Now for the Red Hat Society – my friend Betty wanted to become one, which is an international women’s social organization, but the nearest chapter couldn’t take any more members. So, we started our own chapter! For 14 years, the Red Hats met weekly to enjoy conversation and dine together. We also played cards, board games and one meeting a month was dedicated to book discussion.

“House Guest” Podcast

Have you heard our House podcast? Podcasts are like a radio show you can listen to anytime. Find ours here:

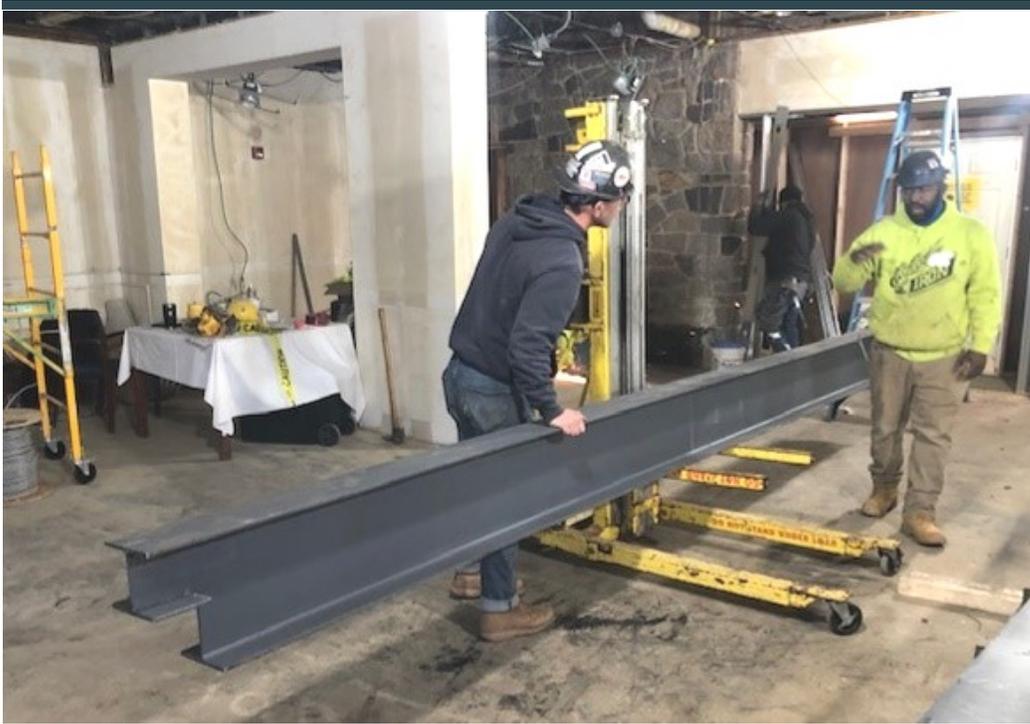
www.hotgs.org/podcasts/

Learn about House history and hear interviews with folks you know. New episodes are posted frequently, so check back for new episodes.



*Above: Residents enjoy some Wii Bowling
Below: Our Recreation Staff celebrated Activities Professionals Week with theme days including a very comfy Pajama Day!*





Renovations at the House continue to make good progress!

Thank you for your patience and understanding with the noise and dust as we make needed upgrades and improvements to be enjoyed for many years!



Mary Dragun and Sharon Gobo

This month, Gina Arnone in our Human Resources office took time to interview Mary Dragun and Sharon Gobo in our Business Office. Many thanks to Mary and Sharon for the work they do and for sharing their stories!

Can you tell us a little bit about your journey and how it led to The House of the Good Shepherd?

Sharon: Went through Telesearch and originally came here as a Temp. After five months, I became a permanent employee. I remember interviewing and it was said to me, "This is the residents' home and you are a guest here." That made me want to work here."

Mary: I was working part-time at the time and was interested in a full-time position. I really liked the levels of care that The House had to offer.

When did you decide that working in a business office setting was something you wanted to do?

Sharon: I have been in accounting for my whole life, since I was 19 years old. I always enjoyed paying attention to detail and coming up with solutions. It's like a needle in a haystack and you always have to find it.

Mary: I worked in an office during high

school and enjoyed it and just continued on that path.

When you think about working at The House, can you tell us what you like the most about being here?

Sharon: Just having conversations with the residents. Knowing that we get to put smiles on their faces.

Mary: The residents and trying to put a smile on their faces. We really can make a difference in every resident's life. It's nice

to be able to lift their spirits.

Tell us what you like to do when you are away from work.

Sharon: I live on a private lake and we love to kayak, electric boating, fish, swim, garden and read. I do like to exercise as well. I have a daughter who

is 27 who is now a nurse. A 25 year-old daughter who is now a pharmacist and a son who is in finance. Two out of my three children worked here at The House.

Mary: Spending time socializing and going out with friends and family. I like to garden also. I love to go to the beach in the summer. My dream is to have a beach house one day. I have twins, one boy, one girl who are 23 and a daughter who is 21. We are a family of Rutgers graduates. Me, my husband, and all of my children!



Mary Dragun and Sharon Gobo

Staff of the Quarter

Congratulations to **Tina Meisten**, our January, February, and March Staff Member of the Quarter! Tina has been a CNA at The House of the Good Shepherd since November 2013 and continues to provide excellent patient care to the residents. Tina reports to work on time, participates in morning huddle, has been precepting temporary CNA's in their competency 80 hours of training, assisting the recreation department over the weekends to ensure the residents had access to activities.



Tina is a valued member of the nursing team and is committed to the residents at the House. Tina is always willing to pick up extra shifts and is flexible with her assignments, which is helpful to the community and department. Tina works well with others and prioritizes the residents needs as a CNA. Tina is always willing to go the extra mile for her team and the residents at the House, and we thank you. Congratulations Tina!!



RELIAS

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

Service Awards

Congratulations to Staff celebrating anniversaries at the House.

Thank you for your service!

Gudelia Gonzalez	25 years
Frida Buzzio	15 years
Sergio Guaman	15 years
Patrick Hill	10 years
Laura Musselman	5 years
Barbara Warne	5 years
Allyson Isherwood	5 years
Nestor Roldan	5 years

New Staff at the House

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

- **Sean Hardy**
Recreation Assistant
- **Lisa Mew**
CHHA
- **Sean McPhillips**
Dietary Aide
- **Chris Ragis**
Maintenance Assistant
- **Patricia Stollenmaier**
CHHA

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 see Careers on our website.

Just for Fun

Abraham Lincoln
Amethyst
Chocolate
Mary Dragun
George Washington
Sharon Gobo
Groundhog Day
Heart
Hibernate

Sue Johnson
Tina Meisten
Pajama Day
Pawprints
Podcasts
President's Day
Skiing
Valentine
Violets

Why do mother kangaroos dislike rainy days? Because then the kids want to play inside!

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



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

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**THE HOUSE OF THE
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A Community of Joyful Living



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