

PARCR NEWSLETTER

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Garden Spot Village, New Holland, PA

President Elma Kreps called the October meeting to order and asked Dick Morris to lead us in prayer. After a few routine business items, she introduced the speaker for the morning, Steve Lindsey, the CEO of Garden Spot Village.

Steve Lindsey gave as the title of his talk *The Journey to Home*. He told us that he would be talking about **Culture Change**, attempting to bring a more home like atmosphere to residents of skilled nursing facilities. The mission of Garden Spot Village is to enrich the lives of older adults as an expression of Christ's love. Daily Pleasures, he said, make up the routine that helps make our day. He asked for some of the "daily pleasures" that we enjoy in making our days pleasant. Many were called out including garden, library, volunteering, hobbies, crafts, devotions, reading the paper. Then he asked what makes a home, and among the answers were family, possessions or meaningful stuff, security, comfort, privacy. These are features which often are lacking in the life of the resident of most Skilled Nursing Facilities.

He showed us a diagram which a researcher had constructed to suggest what makes a home. The seven features she had suggested were journeying – a place from which to journey and a place to which to come home; lived space – a space to plan and use as one decides; privacy; identity – being able to be oneself; connectedness – maintaining ones relationships with family and friends; power & autonomy – being able to make choices for oneself; and safety and predictability – feeling secure and comfortable with known surroundings.

Culture Change attempts to make the skilled nursing area more home like. He introduced us to the three R's of Culture Change. First is Renewal of the Spirit- resident centered changes shaped through life involvement. This means enabling residents to enjoy more of the daily pleasures of normal life; allowing them to make more choices; making their surroundings more homelike and comfortable, and encouraging greater involvement. The second R – Reframing the organization. This involves creating a household team with permanent staff, and having all departments' part of the team. Resident centered care starts with getting to know each resident, their likes and dislikes, and personality types. Decisions are made at the household level, including activities, bathing times, meals etc. Finally, Redesign the Physical Space. Create smaller, friendly spaces. Have a kitchen were residents can watch or even participate in cooking; have a small dining area for the small household family; provide outdoor spaces to encourage varied activities.

The plan toward which Garden Spot Village is working will be to have four households on campus, with approximately 16 residents per household. Most of the rooms will be private rooms with private baths, although in redoing the present skilled nursing area, it is possible that some semi-private rooms will be maintained to provide areas where couples could remain together. This plan is to be budget neutral.

After a number of questions had been asked and answered, Elma thanked Mr. Lindsey for his excellent presentation.

George Steedle then welcomed the delegates and visitors to Garden Spot. He told us that Garden Spot is 10 years old and now has approximately 800 residents. Following the meeting, we were invited to visit the rail road shop and wood working area. He also mentioned the Legacy Garden which is being created. There are plans for larger apartments to be built soon, with an under ground garage.

Next Elma asked Bill George to conduct the roll call. Delegates from 19 communities were present. Brethren Home Community reported that the West Village Country Homes are nearing completion. Landis Homes has some unused and undeveloped land for which plans are now being developed. Masonic Village announced that 102 new cottages have been finished and all will be occupied by next month. New apartments are currently being planned. The Menno Haven Board of Directors has announced that Rodney Mason has been appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of Menno Haven Retirement Communities. He is a graduate of Bridgewater College in Virginia, and has worked in the senior industry since graduation. Most recently he has served as president of Peter Becker Community in Harleysville, PA. When Penn Hall, a former school, was acquired, there were three original buildings. Two are now in use, and an application for HUD assistance to create residents for those with limited incomes in the third building was submitted. The application was not approved, but it is still hoped that this can be accomplished. The third community of the Menno Haven Communities, Northfield is nearing completion. 14 Villas are about ready, and the Board of Directors has approved the building of the last 7 villas. Green Ridge Village reported that the Auxiliary had provided a Pavilion in the Carriage Courts Courtyard, to make possible much more comfortable out door activity for residents of the Assisted Living areas in Swaim Center. A mother duck found it so attractive that she laid her eggs there and began to raise her ducklings in the Courtyard. In time, however, it became necessary to move the family to the nearby creek... Messiah Village is moving towards a Green House Project for their Skilled Nursing facility. Sprenkle Village and the Village at Kelly Drive are working together to inform residents about the Medicare D program. The new Utz Village in Hanover is making progress, and a HUD Building has been approved for Utz Village. Tel Hai Community is celebrating their 50th anniversary. Their new Adult Day Care has been completed, increasing the size to 46 individuals. The Assisted Living renovations are nearing completion. Ware Presbyterian Village has 81 villas, and 32 apartments. With the assisted living and skilled nursing residents, there are a total of 307 residents. Woodcrest Villa will start 38 new villas the first of the year. They have a new telephone system which means that when a 911 call is made, the operator will know exactly what residence is being called from.

After a delicious lunch, the second speaker of our program was introduced, our Assistant Secretary and new program chairman, George Tjiattas. After our program in July 2004, given by Jack Vogel song, George volunteered to become an Apprise Counselor, and over the following six month received considerable training. This fall he has spoken in a multitude of places, informing people about the new Medicare D program. This program, he told us, is a voluntary benefit, and each person must make a decision, whether or not to sign up, and choosing the proper plan. The plans are being offered by private companies which must be approved by Medicare and meet at least the basic standard benefit. Both brand and generic prescriptions will be provided under the program. The monthly premium for the basic benefit is \$32.59. Under this benefit, the beneficiary will pay the first \$250.00 and then 25% of cost up to a total of \$2250. From that point, the beneficiary will pay 100% up to a total of \$5100.00. At that point the catastrophic benefit begins under which the program will pay 95% of the cost. Various plans may offer greater benefits at a higher cost. For beneficiaries who have incomes below 150% of the Federal Poverty Level the program offers special plans at lower or almost no cost.

George Tjiattas emphasized the importance of knowing as much as possible about what you are doing before making any decision or signing up for anything. The plans must make available a formulary which will list all the drugs which are covered. Be sure the prescriptions you and your spouse use are covered. Beginning November 15th, individuals can sign up for one of the plans, or if already covered more generously by a prescription benefit already in place, decide not to participate in Medicare D. Individuals have until December 31st to sign up to begin being covered by January 1, 2006, and one has until May 15th 2006 to sign up without additional cost. Coverage will begin the first of the next month after a persons signs up.

Elma thanked George for his excellent presentation. Next she called on George Steedle to give the report of the auditing committee. He reported that the treasurer's books and the bank statements are in agreement and commended Dick Morris for his fine work.

Evert Fuller reported that the PARCR web site is up to date, but reminded the delegates that the web site is now PARCR.com.

Elma gave her annual report as president, since she was unable to attend the annual meeting in July. She reviewed the meetings for the year, and recalled the opportunity for PARCR to have an information desk at the PANPHA meeting in June of 2004, and thanked those who had helped in this effort. She concluded by reminding all present of the importance of having more people willing to take on responsibilities and accept offices in PARCR.

The January meeting of PARCR will be held on January 11th at Bethany Village, and the April meeting will be held at Quincy Village. Elma requested that communities consider inviting PARCR for the July and October meetings of 2006.

Frank Lookinbill and Bill Spoon from Cross Keys Village bought word of some legislation which could harm retirees. Committees in both the House and the Senate recently passed their own versions of Pension Reform Legislation. Now these bills go to the full House and Senate for a vote.

Businesses recognized that playing “catch up” on their pension funds (as the pending legislation requires) will hurt future profits. They successfully lobbied the House committee to include language in their bill (HR-2830) that facilitates conversion of pension plans to **cash-balance formulas**. For longer-term workers cash-balance conversions can mean a pension cut of up to 40%.

The House version includes language protecting (from any age-discrimination suits) employers who convert to such cash-balance plans “prospectively” (in the future) but not “retroactively”. Senators Orrin Hatch and Blanch Lincoln are quoted on the internet as saying that they will offer an amendment to make the bill **retroactive**, presumably when the bill goes to the Senate Floor for a full vote. It is difficult to know whether or not such an amendment would affect the pensions of persons already drawing pensions.

This is one of those cases where 95% of the proposed legislation is a good thing, but the troublesome fine print in the remaining 5% might slip through and harm retirees. Please write to your representative and senators and urge them to defeat any proposed amendment in the Pension Reform Act that would permit, facilitate, or encourage cash-balance conversions to be **retroactive** or to reduce pensions of those already retired.

More News from our Communities

Bethany Village

Twice monthly on the second and fourth Tuesdays, residents gather to hear interesting speakers. The Coffee and Conversation Committee tries to present subjects of general interest from thought provoking to informational to entertaining. The program site alternates between the two campuses, either in the East Community Room or the West Multipurpose Room. The next program will be held October 25th when Walter Lyon will give his personal story about leaving Nazi Germany with his parents and his reflections about what on the Holocaust.

The Brethren Home Community, Cross Keys Village

Therapeutic Activities is hosting their annual Trick or Treat night on Monday, October 24th. Children come from all over, grandchildren of residents and Villagers, children of employees and even some children from nearby neighborhoods. Children parade through the halls of the Health Care Center and residents pass out candy!

On November 18th, the Christmas Bazaar will be held in the Gallery Room.

Garden Spot Village

The 65 new apartments soon to be built come with a choice of floor plans – 2 bed rooms, 2 bedrooms plus a den, or 3 bedrooms. It will also be possible to choose between open air balconies and bright extended sunrooms. The lifted ceilings and open area floor plans provide a spacious feeling. The plans include underground parking.

Soon Garden Spot Village will introduce an exciting new service called Garden Spot Village at Home. The purpose is to offer home care services to people in their apartments, cottages and carriage homes. Help will be available for both domestic jobs and personal care needs, such as help preparing a meal or help in bathing or dressing after a hospital visit.

Landis Homes

A collaborative program between Hinkletown Mennonite School and Landis Homes received statewide recognition for its unique cross-generational pairing as a model for other Pennsylvania communities. The GrandPals program was selected as the PANPHA Innovation of the Year for 2005.

In presenting the award PANPHA board chair, Jim Bernardo said, “For their inspirational creation of a mutually beneficial program for both young and old PANPHA is proud to recognize Landis Homes’ GrandPals program as Innovation of the Year.”

Masonic Village

Susquehanna Real Estate, Wagman Construction, Inc. – The Urban Group and Joseph E. Murphy, Chief Executive Officer, announced the name and unveiled the sign of the proposed Marketplace – Sycamore Square, which will be built on the edge of campus adjacent to the Elizabethtown Amtrak Station. This joint project will use Village owned land for such commercial purposes as a restaurant, bank, hotel and the like.

William and Dorothy Stout have completed a full circle in their lives. Both grew up in the Masonic Children’s Home at Elizabethtown. After serving in the Army Air Corps for two years, Bill was reunited with Dot’s brother Jack, a former roommate. He was attending George Washington University and encouraged Bill to enroll. Bill enrolled and lived at Jack’s mother’s house in Bethesda, MD. When Dot, who was attending Shippensburg University, came home for holiday vacations she became friends with Bill. In time their friendship blossomed into romance and they were married January 28, 1950. After a long and varied life, they moved into one of the new cottages at Masonic Village on January 13, 2005, just 15 days shy of their 55th wedding anniversary.

Menno Haven and Penn Hall

The 12th Annual Treat Night will be held on Thursday, October 27th from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the Manor and Nursing Center and until 8:00 for the Cottages. Children of staff and relatives of resident’s ages 0 – 10 are invited to participate. Children may dress in costumes, but are asked to refrain from evil or scary costumes. Cottage residents should sign up outside the Life Enrichment Office if they want children to visit their cottages.

Mark your calendars – Christmas Open House at the Glass House will be held October 26th, 27th and 28th. The hours are from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p. m.

The Menno Penn Military Council will hold its Fall Banquet on Friday, November 4th at 6:30 p.m. in the Village Inn dining room on the Menno Village Campus. All Menno Village, Northfield and Penn Hall Veterans, their spouses, widows and widowers and guests are invited to attend.

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