



Fun Times in Assisted Living

May 28, 2021 Edition

COVID STATUS

We are blessed to remain COVID free amongst both staff and residents.

Please check our website for the most up-to-date information:

www.oddfellows.com/covid-19



“Making Memories!”
~ Leonard Jenner



MEMORIES

I don't remember his face or how tall he was. I don't remember what he looked like when he went to work or to church. I don't remember his voice. But I remember how he smelled. I remember he always had lemon drops in his car ashtray (yes, he sanitized it 😊) I remember the puppies he used to raise and going with him to watch over them. I remember how his hair felt when he would let me get the leather covered stool and a comb, then mess his hair all up and comb it straight, over and over again, for hours. I remember the feel of the leather on the stool. I remember standing beside the warm wood stove where he would sit. I remember feeling safe and loved.

My Poppy died when I was six. He was my mother's father (sorry, maternal grandfather sounds too formal). There is so much I don't remember about Poppy. I've heard so many stories over the years, that it almost seems like I remember those stories, but they weren't mine. He was a good, honest man who loved his family with all he had. My mom says his laughter was the best sound you would ever here.

My Dad worked A LOT when I was little. As a result, he missed a lot of functions. It wasn't bad, it just was. He was determined to give us a good life and to provide well for my Mom and I. Things turned a little as I got older and he was able to join in more, especially during my teenage years. Now, as he's become a grandpa, his favorite saying is "Making Memories!" Those two words have become so incredibly important to me and guide so much of my decision making and general outlook on life.

I'd bet you're following my train of thought by now. It's a twisty train, but we're getting there. This weekend is Memorial Day. It's our time to remember those who we have lost. Those who we've made memories with. It's our time to honor them. But it's also a time to make a few memories with those who are still with us. Toss a ball around, have a picnic, eat the best potato salad you've ever tasted, memories! Because some day, we are going to be the one's who are gone. And when we are, I'd bet you, like me, want our loved ones to remember us like I remember my Poppy. With that feeling of safety and love. So go out and take my dad's advice this weekend – Make some memories!

Blessings,
Kari Randall, MSW
Assisted Living Director

LITTLE MOMENTS



There is a song by Brad Paisley called “Little Moments” that is the perfect caption for this picture. “I live for little moments like that.” This picture speaks volumes about the humanity of long-term care. Particularly this past year. Residents and caregivers have had to learn to lean on each other and trust each other more than ever before. As a result, I’ve seen such connections and bonds formed that otherwise wouldn’t have been. It’s those “little moments” that make one feel safe as a resident and like you made a difference as a caregiver. Money can’t buy that kind of “moment”. Memory Made!

#MakingMemories

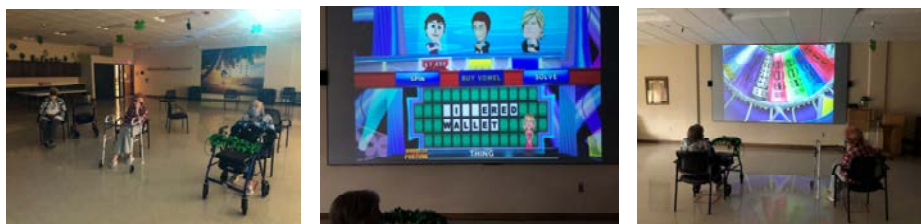
RAIN OR SHINE

Bocce must prevail! No matter the weather, no matter the cost, Bocce must continue! OK, I might be a teensy bit dramatic, but our Bocce Ball games continued this week with more two on two action. One day followed up with a just for fun game that brought some resounding laughter to the air. Once again – Memory Made!



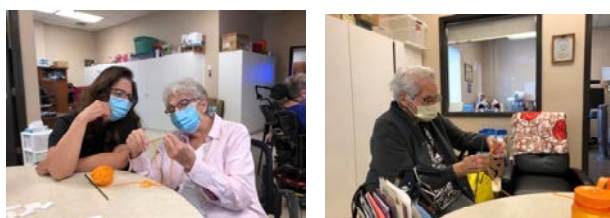
WOULD YOU LIKE TO BUY A VOWEL

Another popular game is Wii Wheel of Fortune. It’s usually a different crowd than the Bocce crowd, but hey, everyone has to have their thing. We have some AMAZING spellers here at Odd Fellows. Me, I’m lost without autocorrect. But there really are people who actually know how to spell!!! Who knew?!? Another Memory Made!



KNIT ONE, PURL TWO

At the top of the page I talked about what the real reward of caregiving is; relationships! These pictures say the same thing to me. To some it’s just a small knitting class. But to the people sitting there, it’s a moment in time where we as caregivers can help fill in the gaps for a talent that might be forgotten. For the resident it’s a moment of success. Memory Made!



IN MEMORY OF . . .

It doesn't get easier to write those words. You'd think it would, but it always means a good-bye said. We've lost 3 very precious souls in the past month. People who blessed our lives with laughter and love abounding.



Bill Zuger

Bill was a mountain of a man with the most amazing laugh. His love for his wife and his family was evident every time you talked to him. Quick with a good word and kind to those in need. You should have seen his big old hands, gently cuddling a tiny kitten. A man of gentle strength. It is with a sad heart that we wave good bye to a good friend.



Dorothy Colombo

When I think of Dorothy, the first word that comes to mind is "Tenacious". Dorothy had a spirit of determination like none other. When she set her mind to something, it happened. And in quick order I might add. Grass did not grow under her feet. Dorothy was a gracious and gentle woman. Good bye Miss Dorothy!



Tillie Velasquez

Miss Tillie gave butterfly hugs. She had the gentlest touch. Gentle of spirit with a gracious heart. Tillie loved, her family, her friends, and the people she surrounded herself with. Tillie enjoyed so many different things. Always a smile and wave to those who passed by. And when her eyes sparkled, you knew there was mischief about. May you rest with peace and love Miss Tillie!



memories