

Home Times Monthly

*A newsletter for Pond Home residents with
all the news that's fit to print*

November 2024 volume 145

To My Dear Residents:

November is a month to be thankful and grateful for the abundance we have all around us. Thanksgiving focuses on food in abundance, but we all have many other things to be grateful for in our lives. Take time to notice them for yourself and give yourself time to reflect on them.

They say if you have a roof over your head, bed to lay your head on at night, and no worries about where your next meal is coming from you are luckier than most people in the world. Add, indoor plumbing and you are among the very luckiest. There are a whole bunch of things we can all be grateful for each day.

When reflecting, if some of the things you are grateful for turn out to be people be sure to tell them. We all have people who add gifts to our life, and they may not even know it. Tell them how grateful you are to have them be a part of your life! That can really make someone's day.

Believe it or not, starting gratitude 'practice' - thinking about all the things and people you are grateful for can be great for your mental health. It can boost your happiness! Now who wouldn't be grateful for that?

Thanks for reading,



Becky Annis, Administrator

*"Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you kneel to say your nightly prayer. And let faith be the bridge you build to overcome evil and welcome good." ~ **Maya Angelou***

*"Living in a state of gratitude is the gateway to grace," ~ **Arianna Huffington***

*"Each day brings new opportunities, allowing you to constantly live with love—be there for others—bring a little light into someone's day. Be grateful and live each day to the fullest," ~ **Kyo Maclear***

Resident Spotlight



This month's resident spotlight is **Marilyn Hill**. Marilyn was born in Pittsburgh, PA and lived there until her high school years when she moved with her parents to the Philadelphia area. Her father worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad which entitled them to railroad passes all over our country. Their visit to the Grand Canyon was most impressive to Marilyn. Early travel may have predisposed her to all the traveling she later did with her husband, Greer.

An only child, Marilyn learned early to entertain herself, and she doesn't remember ever being lonely. Her German mother and Grandmother raised her strictly; she became conscientious, a hard worker, curious, intellectual, and an eager reader.

Marilyn earned a BA in Chemistry from Hood College in Frederick, MD. An aunt had attended Hood, so Marilyn went there too, but the College didn't have a BS program in Chemistry, which may have impacted negatively on her later career. After graduation, she taught chemistry and biology at the Shipley School in Bryn Mawr, PA, later becoming Research Assistant to a biochemistry professor at Bryn Mawr College.

She met Greer Hill when both were singing in their church choir; he was 18, she 16; Greer was a bass and Marilyn a mezzo-soprano. She fondly reminisces that they sang together for 61 years! They dated for 6 years before marrying in 1951. Most dates consisted of hiking and attending concerts of classical music, often riding the antique trolley to concerts in Fairmount Park.

The Hills had a son and two daughters born in suburban Philadelphia. They seemed to be very family centered and enjoyed tent camper vacations on the East Coast. Marilyn is fortunate now in that Geoffrey, Katie and Karen all live in this area; there are 7 grandchildren, 6 of them girls. In somewhat earlier years, Marilyn and Greer always had the whole family over for holidays.

Greer and Marilyn moved to Walpole. The family lived in Walpole from 1971 to 1999, 28 years. Marilyn was a teacher's aide/Secretary to the Special Education Administrator in the Walpole Public School System and held other jobs as well.

The Hills were the second family to sign up for Pond Meadow. Greer had developed a lung problem, and friends had told them of the yet to be built CPM. They were interested, and subsequently were pictured in PR brochures for their community. In September 1999, they moved into unit #18. Marilyn enjoyed the birds and frogs in her backyard woods and vernal pond.

After nearly 56 years of marriage, Greer passed away in the spring of 2007. He is remembered by many for his quick wit, gourmet cooking and very natty clothes sense. Together they had shared many, many foreign trips on their own, and also with their church choir to Salzburg, Austria and the Wells Cathedral in the UK. Greer's lovely mountain slides adorn one living room wall.

Marilyn was one of the busiest people at CPM. She was Vice Chairman and Clerk (to Faye Cole's Chairmanship) of the Barn Committee, which had responsibility for their potlucks, catered dinners, socials, happy hours, some programs and several yard sales of years past. At Christmas she dashed off 12 different types of seasonal cookies. She also led a monthly sing along at the Pond Home.

In the past, she was a volunteer driver for the Walpole Senior Center. Also in Walpole, at her church, she had been Chairwoman of many committees and sang in the choir. She helped with socials and crafts. She is famous for having made over 1500 songbirds of 10 different varieties for the Christmas Fair and ran a workshop to pass along her skills. She makes other decorations as well and previously made baby clothes for preemies.

Marilyn moved into Pond Home in August of 2024. You can now find her enjoying the many crafts done here, music and teatime.



Marilyn enjoying crafts



Enjoying the music



Knitting time



PATCHES' PURRSPECTIVE

Around this time of year Becky pushes the gratitude thing with you humans, and me too. This year she has asked me to share what I am grateful for on a day-to-day basis. Here is my list, in no particular order:

1. The joy of wandering – I love exploring this big house on a regular basis and all of you who welcome me into your rooms or chat with me as I pass by.
 2. Windows – I know I am not supposed to go outside, but nature is really hard to resist, so I love the ability to see it.
 3. An occasional escape – it is my way of reminding you I am still wild at heart, but I am most grateful for the fact that everyone encourages me back into my very safe and special house.
 4. Food – maybe sometimes I'm given too much but there is always a fresh supply for me each day.
 5. Health – thanks to your help I remain a healthy and happy cat – only eating what I am allowed on my special diet. Just like some of you, I follow a doctor prescribed diet, but in my case, it is a veterinarian who prescribed it.
 6. Laughter – when you are laughing at me for some of my silly behaviors or the costumes you put me in, I know I bring fun!
 7. Parties – you might call me a party animal – I like to be where the action is. Glad we have so many gatherings here.
- I think that is enough for today. But know I am grateful for every day I get to be the Pond Home house cat!

Your furry friend



DEBBIE'S WISDOM

This will be my lasts WOW! I promise you that I have received way more wisdom from you all. I am beyond sad that I will no longer see you all weekly. Thursdays are my favorite day, and you all brightened my weeks, months, and years. Thank you for always welcoming me into your home and rooms. I enjoyed our 1 on 1 visits and feel honored to have been part of your lives and will miss that greatly. Thank you all so much for your kind/heartfelt words these last couple of weeks. I have felt the love! Good luck to you all. Pond Home will always hold a special place in my heart. All my best... AND Happy Thanksgiving! Your Past Social Worker... Deb



November Birthday's

Theresa Valiquette 28rd

William Annis 28th

Message from Christa, DON



2nd COVID-19/Influenza Vaccination Extravaganza 2024!!!



Attention all Pond Home Residents and Staff Members! We will be hosting a 2nd clinic this year for those of you that were not available during our last one in October! This event will also be offering the RSV and Pneumococcal vaccinations!

Date: 12/16/2024

Time: 09:00am-12:00Noon

Location: Pond Home Living Room

What you need to know:

***Please bring a photo ID and a copy of your insurance card**

Let's Keep Pond Home Community Safe by protecting ourselves, residents, families and loved ones!





Activity Highlights for November

Weekly shopping - Stop & Shop and Target Wednesday's at 10am

Mystery rides Thursdays leaving at 1:30pm

Lending Library - Monday's at 10am

CUDDLES with CODY - Tuesdays at 1pm

Wednesday's Music with Paul & Vince 2pm LR

Thursday Nights - Popcorn & a Movie 6pm LR

Exercise/Morning Stretch daily at 9:15

Monday Matinee - 1:15pm, LR

11/4: "Quartet"
11/11: "The Fighting Sullivans"
11/18: "I'll See You in My Dreams"
11/25: "Singing in the Rain"

Saturday Matinee - 1pm, LR

11/2: "What About Bob"
11/9: "Cocoon"
11/16: "The Double"
11/23: "Oklahoma"
11/30: TBD

Sunday Evening Movie - 6pm, LR

11/3: "Casablanca"
11/10: "The Town"
11/17: "Good Will Hunting"
11/24: TBD

11/2: Steven King performs
11/5: Visit from the VA
11/7: Acapella Barbershop "On Tour"
11/8: Eddie Dillon performs
11/10: Aoife Clancy entertains
11/15: Kathy Earabino entertains
11/18: Catholic Mass
11/22: Super Nova Dance performance
11/28: Macy's Thanksgiving Parade



HAIRDRESSER THURSDAY & FRIDAY