

# Home Times Monthly

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

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February 2025 volume 148

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To My Dear Residents:

It has been said by someone more eloquent than I that to have true happiness you need to be loved and to love, to have something to do, and something to hope for. I like this way of looking at happiness because it shows that anyone can have happiness, no matter what your financial or physical circumstances. Happiness doesn't come from things but from our feelings and connections with other people.

The love described does not have to be the traditional love you think of for Valentine's Day to bring fulfillment to your life. Love can come in the simple gesture of reaching out to one another in friendship and sincere warmth. Love can come in the form of care and concern for your family and friends.

Having something to do or a purpose can be accomplished by being a part of the activities happening here, plans with family, or as peaceful as contemplating a bird you see out the window or reading a good book.

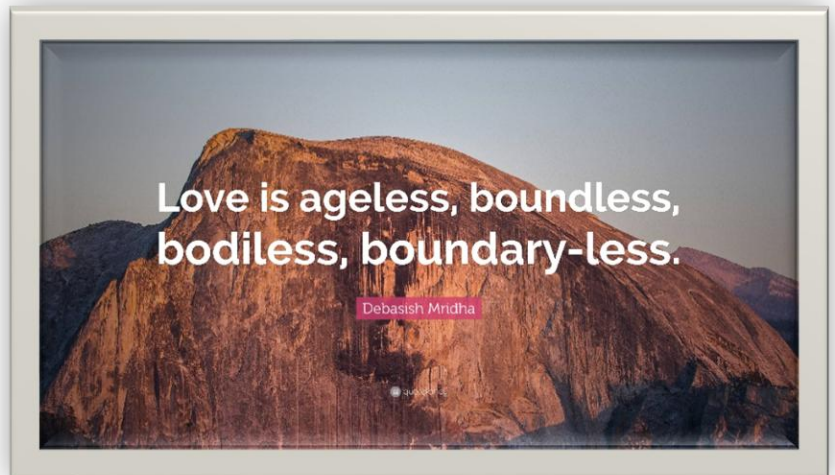
Hope can come in the form of hope for your own needs and wishes, those of your friends and family, or for the world in general.

So, in this month of February, which despite being the shortest month in calendar days, can be long and cold in New England, I encourage you to find happiness in your own way each day.

Thanks for reading,



Becky Annis, Administrator



## *Resident Spotlight*



We have decided to revisit the story of Pond Home's longest resident. This month's spotlighted resident is **James Meranda**, better known as Jim or Jimmy. He lived 69 of his 84 years in Norwood where he was born. His mom and dad lived in South Boston, but his mother was from Norwood and wanted "the old-time doctor" to deliver her baby when the time came, so he was born in Norwood but lived in South Boston. When he was five, they moved to Norwood into his mother's parents' home. He was their only child, and this is the home he remained in until moving to Pond Home in May of 2015.

He attended Norwood public schools and graduated from Norfolk County Agricultural High School where he studied horticulture in 1962. He did post-graduate work to learn greenhouse management. He worked at Wayside Flower Shop in Walpole on the greenhouse side, until it closed

in 1989. He then went to work for Shaw's in Norwood, which was later Victory. He retired in 2003.

His father passed away in 1989 and his mother in 1997. He managed all the maintenance of the home inside and out until last winter, when he found it to be too much.

Jimmy has been a long-time parishioner of St. Catherine of Sienna church in Norwood, and a dedicated member of Norwood's Knights of Columbus. For many years, he was the Inside Guard for his K of C chapter. He enjoyed bowling with the Knights' team. He also enjoyed participating in all their events, which included fund raisers and community events.

He has always enjoyed gardening and has great plans to help us with our standing gardens next year. He used to have a large vegetable garden. He keeps up on local news using his computer.

He has three first cousins, Maureen, who live in Delaware; Sheila and Kathy, who live in Florida. They all keep in touch with him and visit annually. He makes annual trips to Delaware as well. His second cousin, Ann, lives in Norwood, in the house next to the one he just sold.

He enjoys participating in the activities at Pond Home and always having ready company. He is known as "cruise ship Jim" We are happy to have his positive and friendly presence here at Pond Home.

Jimmy still enjoys all activities and is present for most. He is a shining star here at Pond Home.



## **PATCHES' PURRSPECTIVE**

It is the month where everyone focuses on LOVE! As you know, I turned 13 on the 29th of last month. You had a celebration for me on my special day, paWsing the Bocce game to focus on me. I felt feelings towards you and from the residents and staff gathered to sing me "Happy Birthday"!

Not sure if I can say they were feelings of love, but I felt acknowledged and cared about for sure. I did not appreciate the hat Donna encouraged/forced me to wear. I did appreciate the treats on a silver platter in the form of a number 13, but I waited to eat them in private, as I didn't want to have to share!

Thinking about it, I guess I have to be honest. I do love you people. Love you so much that I let you live and work in my house!

### **Your furry friend**



# COMMENT/GRATITUDE BOARD

Residents talked about how much they enjoy the outings and having the bus at their disposal.

Paul shared that when he first moved in, he spoke to one of the laundry staff about how he likes his pants creased and hung on the hanger. He reports they have been following through ever since.

Connor is great at making sure my coffee cup is refilled frequently

Kitchen staff has been so positive and lovely while Ron is out. They have done a great job.

Julia knows what I want to order, almost before I ask!

Pond Home is a cut above all other options available globally - Shared by one resident at Resident Council and seconded by another & all present at meeting!

Housekeeping does a great job of keeping my room well kept.



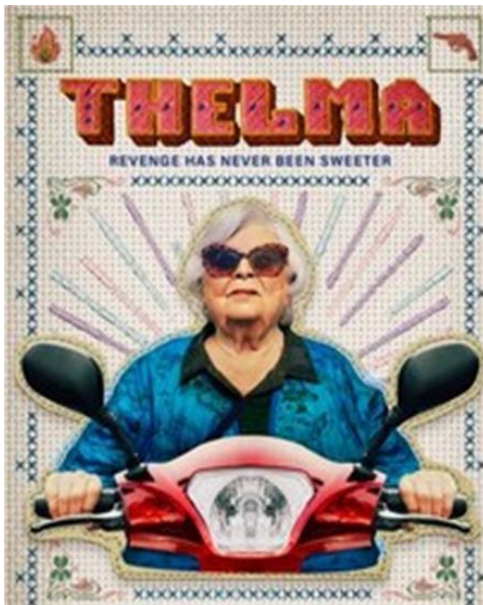
## WORDS OF WISDOM

- ❖ “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” - Martin Luther King, Jr.
- ❖ “In February, there is everything to hope for and nothing to regret.” - Patience Strong
- ❖ “If January is the month of change, February is the month of lasting change.”
- ❖ “Nothing in the universe can stop you from letting go and starting over.”
- ❖ “Never dull your shine for somebody else.”
- ❖ “What could we accomplish if we knew we could not fail?”



### February Birthday's

Jean MacDonald 20<sup>th</sup>



This month I hope that everyone will come to our Monday Afternoon Movie on Monday February 3rd. Our selection has been played at several Senior Centers and Churches over the past couple of months, and for good reason. The movie is – THELMA. Thelma is a 2024 American comedy-drama film written, directed, and edited by Josh Margolin. The film stars June Squibb as a woman who falls victim to a phone scam and sets out to find the perpetrators with the help of her grandson and friend. This movie has been very well received and rumors of it being nominated for several awards. It is a very funny movie that deals with a very serious issue going on in our society today. In fact, the character Thelma is based on the writer/director Josh Margolin's real grandmother who was scammed in the same manner. (She makes an appearance in the closing credits). I truly hope that we have a packed Living Room to watch this film, and we will follow it up with a great discussion following the movie.

## *Message from Christa, DON*

The podiatrist will be here on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

Cathy Chianca from our local HESCO will be here on Thursday February 20th to speak to our residents on the Medicare Supplemental Review. We hope that you will join us as Cathy shares some very helpful information on Health Care Coverage. Please feel free to invite family members to join us. Hope to see you there!

## *Employee Spotlight*



This month's employee spotlight is Charles Sammarco, better known as Chuck. He will be joining Josh in the Maintenance Department as Pond Meadow's new Maintenance Tech and back up for Josh.

Chuck was born and raised in Dedham and Easton, Massachusetts. He has a brother, a sister, and 2 nephews who are all local. He currently lives in Norton and has been there for over 20 years.

Chuck enjoys traveling to Florida to see family. He likes going to the beach and relaxing by the pool, especially if they are in a warmer climate than we are right now! He likes watching and going to the Bruins and Red Sox games, riding his motorcycle and going to the movies.

Chuck graduated from Southeastern Technical High School in South Easton which started his knowledge and practical application of fixing, repairing, replacing, and updating everything that has to do with home ownership.

He looks forward to getting to know all of you and providing the best possible service you deserve.

If you see Chuck around Pond Home, please welcome him.



## **Activity Highlights for February**

**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 & Friends 2pm LR**

**Thursday Nights - Popcorn & a Movie 6pm LR**

**Exercise/Morning Stretch daily at 9:15**

**Monday Matinee - 1:15pm, LR**

2/3: "Thelma"

2/10: "The Simple Life of Noah Dearborn"

2/24: "TBD"

**Saturday Matinee - 1pm, LR**

2/1: "Driving Miss Daisy"

2/8: "Sister Act"

2/15: "The Notebook"

2/22: "Woman of the Year"

2/1: Steven King entertains

2/7: Doug Robinson performs

2/8: Cooking Club

2/11: Sing Along with Carol, Fred and Mary

2/13: Roberta plays for Nursing Unit

2/13: Hot Chocolate Social

2/14: Valentines Party

2/15: Music with Jim and JJ

2/16: Music with Alex

2/17: Catholic Mass

2/17: Sing along with Roberta

2/20: HESSCO - Medicare Supplemental Review

2/20: Paws of Comfort

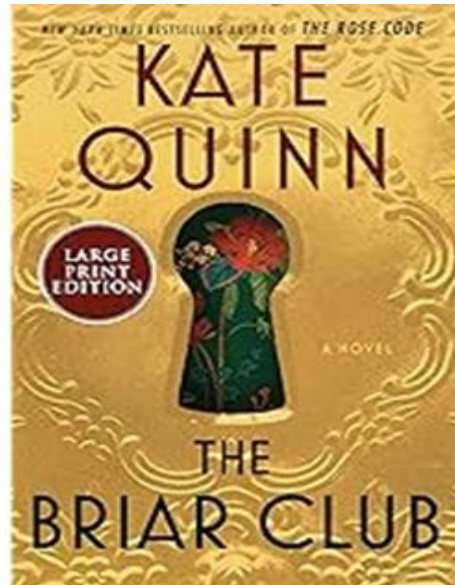
2/21: Michael Leidig plays piano

2/28: Sing along with John and Linda



HAIRDRESSER THURSDAY & FRIDAY

You asked for it, and here it comes..... The next selection for the Pond Home Book Club!



**The New York Times bestselling author of *The Diamond Eye* and *The Rose Code* returns with a haunting and powerful story of female friendships and secrets in a Washington, DC, boardinghouse during the McCarthy era.**

Washington, DC, 1950. Everyone keeps to themselves at Briarwood House, a down-at-the-heels all-female boardinghouse in the heart of the nation's capital where secrets hide behind white picket fences. But when the lovely, mysterious widow Grace March moves into the attic room, she draws her oddball collection of neighbors into unlikely friendship: poised English beauty Fliss, whose facade of perfect wife and mother covers gaping inner wounds; policeman's daughter Nora, who finds herself entangled with a shadowy gangster; frustrated baseball star Beatrice, whose career has come to an end along with the women's baseball league of WWII; and poisonous, gung-ho Arlene, who has thrown herself into McCarthy's Red Scare.

Grace's weekly attic-room dinner parties and window-brewed sun tea become a healing balm on all their lives, but she hides a terrible secret of her own. When a shocking act of violence tears the house apart, the Briar Club women must decide once and for all: who is the true enemy in their midst?

Capturing the paranoia of the McCarthy era and evoking the changing roles for women in postwar America, *The Briar Club* is an intimate and thrilling novel of secrets and loyalty put to the test.

Please give this page turner a read in the month of February, and we will host Book Club Dinner Party in the beginning of March. Family, Staff and Residents alike are encouraged to join in!