

Valley View Voice

Valley View Retirement Village • Rock of Ages Mennonite Home • M.A.I.D.S. • McMinnville, Oregon • Spring 2018

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Valley View Voice

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KEN OBER

by Victoria Wilbanks

Ken was born January 20, 1940 in The Dalles, and graduated from The Dalles High School, where he met his sweetheart and life partner, Kathy. He has fond memories of playing baseball at high school, and was on the American Legion State Championship team. Ken's parents were also raised in The Dalles. Ken's mother was descended from the Peter Neal pioneer family. Ken's father also had deep Oregon roots, but could trace his lineage to Germany. Ken had a younger brother, Bob, born in 1941. Mr. Ober worked for Pacific Power and Light as a truck driver, and Ken's mother was a homemaker, who created a secure and happy home life for the family. Ken's mother is still living today in the Lodge at Rock of Ages. Ken says she still does cross word puzzles to keep her brain sharp, and reads a book a week. Her next birthday will make her a centenarian.



After graduation from high school, Ken attended Judson Baptist College in Portland for a year, but chose to work after that, as he was eager to marry Kathy, which he did on June 3, 1960. Ken's first job was in an auto parts store, and since he enjoyed that line of work, he eventually began a career job in a parts warehouse near Portland airport. He quickly became a foreman and worked at this warehouse until it closed. He then went to work in a heavy equipment parts warehouse until his retirement in 2000.

During the period when Ken and Kathy were raising a family and working, they lived in NE Portland. After the children were raised, Kathy chose to go to work for Pacific Northwest Bell where she worked for 20 years. She loved this job, because it was an excellent career opportunity providing many great benefits and good wages.

The couple had five children, one boy and four girls. The first child was David and the second Karen. Then came twin girls, and Ken reports that neither he nor Kathy had any idea they were going to have twins. The doctor missed the signs completely, due to the way the babies were placed. Ken remembers sitting in the hospital, fiddling with some papers waiting for the delivery, and the word "twins" flashed across his mind. And that is what happened! Ken was told he and Kathy had identical twin girls, each weighing 5 lbs. Ken remembers that when he went

(Ober continued pg 3)

From Delvin's Desk



We are experiencing another beautiful Spring in Oregon, one of the most beautiful places to live. Flowers and trees in bloom, longer and warmer days, and fresh air with the aroma of spring make it my favorite time of the year.

Let me give you an update on the landscape plans for the lower field here at Rock of Ages. We've had a positive report from Terra Science, the organization that performed the research to determine the land use classification of the area. It appears the land will be considered low grade wet lands. David Monnin from Terra Science has concluded, after several weeks of analyzing ground water levels, native wetland plants and other indicators, that the creation of a lake should be permissible. Based on this report we will continue to pursue this project to enhance our setting with more Oregon natural beauty.

I'm pleased with the progress and excited with what the findings will hopefully allow us to do. Most likely there will be a required ratio of natural habitat and surface water. In my mind I picture cattails swaying in the wind with ducks,

Chaplain's Corner



Mark Nissley

It was special to celebrate this past weekend the most amazing event in history, the death and the resurrection of Jesus. We call it Easter. In Corinthians 15:14, Paul, the Apostle, bluntly wrote, "And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain." I am grateful that the Lord Jesus is alive and not only is He alive, but we eagerly anticipate another resurrection, His return. I like what Martin Luther once wrote "Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime."

This Spring, as we anticipate the green lawns, the beautiful flowers, and the planting of gardens, we also anticipate through prayer the beauty of God's hand at work within us and others.

On May 3rd, our Nation will once again be observing the National Day of Prayer. The Chairman of the

geese, blue herons and other birds using the area. I've always said our setting could be a world renowned garden campus with Oregon's beautiful backdrop of the valley. Increased wildlife, birds, and many other natural beauties will enhance the amazing setting God has given us.

The idea that the overall plan would also incorporate a student outdoor learning center is another reason this project is so exciting to me. I picture meandering walkways and gazebos for work stations and rest areas with viewpoints. Creating a partnership with local schools will build an intergenerational program coveted by other communities. The initial response from surrounding schools has been very positive and welcomed as a needed resource in our area.

The outdoor school will complement our already used TEOPP program (high school internships and employment) that gives high school students learning opportunities in the long term care setting. Two of our employees, Susan Contreras and Holly Churchill, worked with local schools to develop this valuable program. The outdoor school will expand our support of local schools with these programs.

We still have hurdles to cross in the permitting process of the pond but the report we received last week from Terra Science was very encouraging.

National Day of Prayer, Anne Graham Lotz, daughter of the late Billy Graham, recently wrote, *In 1 Peter 4:7 we are exhorted...to be self-controlled so that you can pray. Peter's exhortation has reverberated in my heart. While I have never considered myself a prayer warrior, and have even struggled with prayer in many ways, I now feel very compelled to pray.*

As we approach the National Day of Prayer may we, along with many others in our nation, feel "compelled to pray." It is when we unite in prayer to our Heavenly Father expecting new spiritual guidance and growth that we will truly experience abundant life. May the beauty of the vibrant colors of the flowers of spring be seen not just here in our Village but in our lives as well.

"Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live." Psalm 116:2

Honoring our Employees

Employees of the Month



Truman Byler was named Employee of the Month for December. Truman has worked in Memory Care since July 2017 and will soon be the Memory Care Administrator.



Clara Botello was named Employee of the Month for January. Clara has worked in Memory Care since November 2016.



Holly Churchill was named Employee of the Month for February. Holly is the RN for the In-Home Care department. She has worked at Rock of Ages since June 2017. Did you know that prior to coming to Rock of Ages

Holly did community nursing work among the Ojibway Native Americans in Minnesota?

From the Cloverdale Farms reader board:

- The good old days are over and the best is yet to come.
- Either you run the day or the day runs you!
- The mind is like a parachute, it will only work when it is open!
- When an archer misses the bulls eye, it is never the fault of the target!

(Ober continued from pg one)

home, he found that his very organized wife, Kathy, had laid out a set of clothes for him to bring to the hospital for “the baby”, so he had to do some fast creative thinking. The girls were named Barbara and Brenda. Sadly, Brenda passed away in 1970 before she was 4 years old, due to issues with her heart. This was terribly hard on the family, especially on Barbara, the surviving twin, as they were very close. However, Ken and Kathy always included the church in their lives, and their family found strength through their church during this difficult time. It was also a blessing for the family when the last child, Susan, was born shortly before Brenda’s death.

Ken and Kathy loved family life very much, and spend most of their free time together. The beach was their favorite place to relax and enjoy each other. Kathy’s parents had a home in the San Juan Islands, where they spent many happy hours. In addition to their church family, they had close friends who eventually moved to Iowa, but the distance did not keep them apart. Ken reports that the families visited each other for vacations, and on one occasion, they even met half way in Buffalo, Wyoming for a memorable get together.

The Ober children were all successful, and produced 13 grandchildren for Ken and Kathy, and 13 great grandchildren so far. It is interesting to note that Barbara, who endured the loss of her twin sister, had a successful career in the Air force, stationed in Athens, where she worked in communications. It was in the Air Force in Athens that she met her husband.

After their retirement Ken and Kathy lived in their home in Ocean Shores, Washington, for four years. They would have enjoyed their beach home permanently, but health issues forced them to downsize and move back to Salem in 2004. They lived in a couple of places, but they eventually found Rock of Ages, where they lived together until Kathy’s death on July 16th, 2016. Ken said that his brother had a working connection with Rock of Ages, and recommended that they move to the campus. Ken’s mother settled in about a week before Ken and Kathy arrived.

Ken and his mother feel very fortunate to have found Rock of Ages, and Ken is especially grateful for all of the wonderful services he and his mother receive, enabling them to live life to the fullest.

M.A.I.D.S. In-home Care



Mike Watson

Editor's Note: Please join us in welcoming Mike Watson, our new MAIDS Administrator

Welcome to Spring

Spring is busting out all over, and I love this time of year. I've had enough of the clouds, the rain and colder weather. This is the time of year to freshen our minds and hearts, and to look forward to warmer, sunny days and enjoy the sunrises that come with the longer hours.

A New Chapter

With my role as MAIDS Administrator, I begin a new season of life. There's lots to learn and many new friendships to form. My wife, Leana, and I are excited to become a part of the story at Rock of Ages. We both have a long history working on behalf of seniors and couldn't be more honored than to have this chance to make a difference. For many years I worked at a Christian camp running the guest services department, and later worked for 9 years in hospice. Leana has been a professional fiduciary since the mid-eighties and is tapering her business down to part time status. Soon we hope to have our home in Grants Pass sold and begin building on our lot in Dallas sometime this year.

A Little on the Business End

As of today Rock of Ages employs 25 MAIDS caregivers. We take the time to recruit, interview, fact-check, and train them for at least 80 hours before signing them off to provide care. The MAIDS come with varying levels of experience and unique personalities, but they all have an important trait in common. They care about meeting needs. They care about you.

There's also a framework we are required to use that comes from The State of Oregon called the Oregon Administrative Rules. Thankfully the Rock of Ages community uses an *In-Home Care* model for the delivery of care. It also means the Rules are only about 30 pages long. Some are well over a hundred. Over the next six to twelve months we are going to review these "OARs" to ensure that we stay in compliance. More importantly, we want to refine what we do and become even better. I welcome your input because this is your community. Please tell one of us how we can improve the MAIDS services, or just come by and tell one of us a good story. We might have one to trade with you!

God Bless,

Mike Watson, MAIDS Administrator

Spring has been a little hard on the flowers this year, but their beauty is still an amazing expression of God's love to us.





Our Exercise Class has new instructors.

For the last couple of months our exercise class has had a couple of new leaders; both are students at Linfield College. Tiana Yamaoka is a pre-med student who will graduate this year—She even likes being around us “old people” so much she comes to our Tuesday “Coffee Hour.” The other is Arielle Vu, a sophomore. She talked her living group into making birthday cards for all the ROA residents



Tiana



Arielle

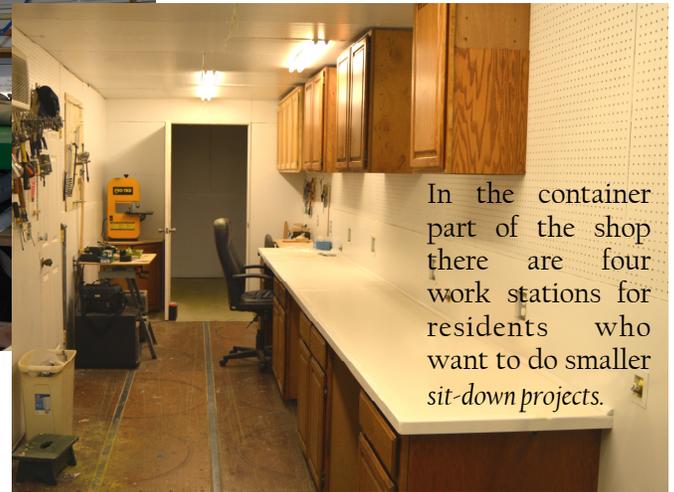
with April birthdays, and they delivered them in person. The girls divide the leadership duties, Tiana leads the Monday class and Arielle leads the Friday class. Thanks for your help, ladies!



The Walter Jensen Upholstery Shop is open for business

Walter is a professional upholsterer who had shops in Idaho and Portland. He has done a lot of work for high-end interior designers in Portland over the years. He said, “Most of the fabric my clients brought me to use on their furniture cost over fifty dollars a yard.” And that was a few years ago. His shop now occupies one corner of the Resident’s Shop and he has already repaired and re-upholstered several chairs for Rock of Ages. There is a waiting list...behind the job he is doing on my airplane seats!

The Rock of Ages Resident’s Shop is nearing completion. It probably won’t ever be completely finished—that wouldn’t be any fun, but it is basically ready to use.



In the container part of the shop there are four work stations for residents who want to do smaller sit-down projects.



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