



# Valley View Voice

Valley View Retirement Village • Rock of Ages Mennonite Home • M.A.I.D.S. • McMinnville, Oregon • Winter 2020

## Walter and Lolita Jensen

by Victoria Wilbanks

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### Valley View Voice

Published quarterly  
by  
Rock of Ages/Valley  
View Retirement  
Community  
15600 Rock of Ages  
Road  
McMinnville, OR  
97128

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Walter was born in Port Angeles, Washington in June 1938, and was the oldest of four children. He graduated from Kelso high school in 1957 and then moved around a lot. It was during one of these travels that he spotted Lolita in church, and knew she was the girl he would marry. Walter, being a very spiritual person from an early age, was able to see that the Lord seemed to be putting the couple in each others' paths against all odds, as if they were destined for each other, which they were. Walter entered the US Navy for two years, having served two years already in the reserves while in school. He was on a heavy cruiser which traveled the Pacific Ocean. Walter's face lights up when he talks about this period of his life. He visited Hawaii and many countries, including Japan, Hong Kong, and Australia. He said his ship was privileged to have a three star commander in charge. Walter worked on the steel deck, where he was responsible for dropping the two ton anchor when needed. Walter said he had the most fun in Australia, and met a lot of nice people. He said since it was not long after WWII, they treated him and his shipmates with the greatest respect.



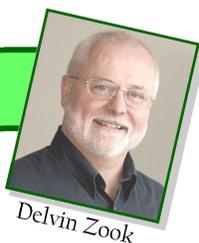
After his tour of duty with the Navy, Walter needed to find some work so he could reunite with his love, Lolita, and marry her. He knocked on doors, and soon the first job he was offered was with an upholstery company. He took this job, and fortunately for him, he loved the work and along with the ministry, went on to make it his career. By the time his career in upholstery ended, he had learned every aspect of the craft, and ended up working for very high end interior designers.

Even before they were married in 1959, and then all through their marriage, they were involved in ministry, as counselors and teachers. They considered this their most important work, and since they were in control of their schedules in their professional lives, they were easily able to combine ministry and professional tasks.

The couple had four children, Timothy Brian, a special person who has Down Syndrome, Bruce William, who lives in Connecticut and works for Sikorsky Helicopters, Ray Stanford, who lives about an hour outside Portland, and has a high position with an environmental firm. Walter gets a smile on his face when he talks about his only daughter, Valerie Estelle, saying she is very active, and hard to catch

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## From Delvin's Desk



Delvin Zook

Another decade milestone has been reached. Our mission is one that enhances the lives of those that live here. We are very blessed here at Rock of Ages.

We have a dedicated Board of Directors, longevity and commitment from leadership, and a staff that makes a big difference in the quality of the services that we offer.

In November the leadership team had a day and a half retreat that focused on relationships; both in staff-to-staff and staff-to-resident relationships. The team identified five cultural qualities that drive the organization.

### 1. A Mission Driven Not-for-Profit Organization

- We don't just have it on paper, but we live it
- A third of our work is identified as charitable by Oregon Department of Revenue

## Chaplain's Corner



Mark Nissley

In the last newsletter, we looked at one of the weekly activities for residents (see last edition). I would like to tell you about another one you will enjoy; it is our weekly "Hour of Encouragement" held in the Memory Care Unit on 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Lodge.

Every Wednesday at 5:30 PM, residents, family members, and available staff are invited to join in a special time of fellowship, consisting of visiting, singing, discussion of a selected Bible passage, followed with a time of prayer.

Since this event is held in Memory Care, you will find various levels of comprehension and participation from the residents on this floor. You will also discover that it is not your typical, formal, midweek, church-like event, even though the focus is on Spiritual Encouragement. This is not intended to intimidate or discourage you, but to invite you to enjoy the opportunity of interacting with Village Residents, while also reaching out in loving compassion to residents in Memory Care.

### 2. Caring Community

- This goes far beyond good caregivers, of which we have many
- Many of our residents reach out to each other, helping one another
- People caring about each other and that is seen in many ways

### 3. Faith Based

- Here again this goes far beyond the spiritual care by Chaplain Mark, who meets many needs in our community
- I see many residents and staff lifting spirits and supporting each other

### 4. Going the extra mile in servanthood

- Many staff and residents serve each other with a humble attitude

### 5. Honoring individuality

- Everyone matters and efforts are made to honor the differences

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There may be stories, memories, humor and yes, some tears, yet you will most likely leave, encouraged and blessed beyond what you expected. Personally, I have experienced this happening quite often. This shouldn't surprise us. The Lord Jesus' design for those who love enough to give, is that the giver will receive. The Lord said in Luke 6:38 *Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.* This is a promise we as God's children will experience as we share our time, gifts, and support with others around us.

I encourage you, if you are the kind of person that isn't afraid of expanding your horizon, or creatively communicating with elderly who struggle with memory loss, as we all might someday, come join the "Hour of Encouragement." You will experience the feeling of satisfaction and blessing, which comes from encouraging others on their life journey.

When you come, feel free to bring a story, a song or a word of encouragement. You'll be glad you did.

## Honoring our Employees

### Employees of the Month



**Katya Ciriano** was named Employee of the Month for September. She has gone above and beyond in resident care and making sure her residents are well cared for. She works both on the floor as a caregiver and in the med room as a medication aid.



**Leslie Harrison** was named Employee of the month for October. Leslie has worked very hard in the office creating the budget and getting our online payroll service going. She has a cheerful attitude and is a great person to work with.



**Blanca Galvez** was named Employee of the Month for November. Blanca does an amazing job, all with a cheery attitude. She is dependable and brings a lot of knowledge and experience to our M.A.I.D.S. program. Blanca has worked at ROA since 2007.

## The Lighter Side

*From the Cloverdale Farms reader board:*

- Some people go a great distance while others are considering whether to start today or tomorrow.
- A lie has speed, but truth has endurance.
- Your life does not get better by chance; it gets better by change.

(Jensen continued from pg one)

up with. Valerie has started a small private tour business and leads tours in foreign countries, and in this way is able to use her phenomenal organizing skills. The couple have five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Lolita was born in Burley, Idaho in 1937, and graduated from Burley High School. Lolita showed great promise at school as an artist, and was told by her teacher to pursue her art throughout her life which she did, but not until later in life when her children were grown. The walls in her home, and the homes of her children are adorned with her beautiful artwork. She also worked tirelessly with an art association, Oregon Society of Artists, and the membership benefited from her talent.

After graduation from high school, Lolita went to work for the telephone company in Weiser, Idaho where she stayed with her grandparents, and was able to buy herself a car. Walter jokingly says it was her car that attracted him to her! Walter found himself in Burley for one school year, and he went to church one Sunday where he spotted Lolita, and she spotted him. As mentioned before, their paths continued to cross in mysterious ways. After graduation, they never saw each other more than twice a year, but were reunited again when they were both working at church-related camps. However, a permanent relationship was not meant to be at this time, because Lolita gave up her telephone company job and went to Portland to volunteer at a church program, and became secretary to the pastor, while Walter went to Longview, Washington and lived with several different Christian families. However they continued to see each other occasionally, until Walter went into the Navy. After he had served his time, he was invited to go with an evangelist to Missoula, Montana to work with a Christian outreach organization, where he worked in a gospel tent for a month. Walter never lost sight of his goal to wed Lolita as soon as possible, which is what he did. After their marriage they moved around a lot, finding themselves in Canada, St. Louis, Missouri, Weiser, Idaho and Portland, where they finally settled for 25 years. Here, they opened an upholstery business in the basement of their home. This is where Walter became the most successful in his business, because by now he had learned every facet of the upholstery

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# Rock of Ages

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business, and had become a highly skilled craftsman who was in demand with high-end clients.

Retirement was looming up ahead of the couple by now, and in addition Walter was experiencing a series of health issues, and Lolita needed some extra assistance too. As a result they thought seriously about moving into a retirement community. When asked how they found Rock of Ages, they said that their daughter Valerie Estelle suggested they take a road trip with her to look at retirement places, just for fun. Rock of Ages was the last facility they visited, and because of their declining health, they arranged to add their names to the waiting list. They have been residents for about three years now, and love being part of the community and living in their Lodge apartment. They feel that their fortune in finding Rock of Ages fits in with how they were guided throughout their lives through their connection with the Lord.

(Delvin continued from pg 2)

This past weekend the Board of Directors had an enjoyable weekend at their annual retreat. Their focus during the weekend was working as a team and supporting the Mission of Rock of Ages/Valley View.

During a day-long discussion on how they can each serve better as board members and work productively, several areas emerged that they will be adopting or changing in their order of business to increase their accountability to our community.

I'm so thankful for a successful year and I look forward to serving during 2020 in a community that is making a difference.