



Valley View Voice

Valley View Retirement Village • Rock of Ages Mennonite Home • M.A.I.D.S. • McMinnville, Oregon • Winter 2021

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Margee Shaffer

By Victoria Wilbanks

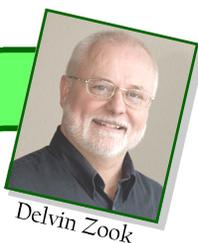
Margee was born in 1942 in Pomona, California, because her father felt Arizona hospitals were too primitive at the time. Within two weeks her parents returned her to their family cattle ranch in Arizona, which was comprised of 20 sections of land up in the Rincon Peaks, and was homesteaded by Margee's ancestors. Margee is proud of her family heritage, which is apparent by her love of genealogy. She has traced her lineage back to William of Orange of England. If one asks, Margee will show you her thick binder containing research, which has been her lifelong work.

Education was very important in her family, and contrary to the custom of the time, most of her family members, including the women, had college degrees. She was an exception to that pattern since she married at 16 and had two boys, before going on to live a very fulfilling life. Margee also had one brother and one sister, so this family of five played and worked hard tending their cattle and horses, and enjoying a life that most of us have only glimpsed in movies. One interesting fact about the ranch is that the tin roof on the original old house served as a beacon by which pilots going to and from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base navigated. Margee went to Sunnyside Junior High School in Tucson and then Tucson High School. She remembers that the Howard Hughes Air Field was close, and she could hear jet engines running and shutting off all day long, and sorely wished they would do one thing or the other. Margee also attended classes at Chemeketa and the University of Alaska. In 1952 the dynamics of the family changed. The ranch was sold, Margee's parents were later divorced, and so were Margee and her first husband. Margee has incredible momentos of the ranch in her binder. There is a wonderful picture of the old ranch house, complete with beef jerky hanging on a line to dry in the yard. Apparently the new owners built a fancy new ranch house and out buildings, so the old pictures are precious. Margee's mother was qualified to teach school so decided to go to Alaska to teach, and asked Margee to go with her. This decision was life changing for both of them, and it is here that Margee met Richard Shaffer, the love of her life, with whom she shared a wonderful marriage for



(Shaffer continued pg 3)

From Delvin's Desk



Delvin Zook

Here we are in 2021 and I've heard many comments of late everyone is so ready to leave 2020. I agree, 2020 hasn't been an easy year for many people with all the political differences, the pandemic, and other events or lack thereof that has put a stall in our lives. It's time to heal.

What is our response when we are challenged? Do we blame our disappointments, inactiveness and lack of focus on others, or do we evaluate ourselves within the situation we are in, and truly see where we can grow and where we can learn to serve each other better. This last year we all have had plenty of time to do just that. Many of you residents have said, "How can I be of service?" I realize we all want to get back to "normal" and create that "community" again with gatherings, outings and more activities. With a high percentage of staff and residents receiving the first dose of the vaccine, with hopefully more joining, and the second dose soon to be administered, our risk of an outbreak is being

reduced and should set us on the right path.

The Board of Directors just had their annual strategic planning retreat this last weekend. The Board and their spouses always have an enjoyable gathering which also allows the Board time to more thoroughly discuss issues relative to our Mission, and whether we can serve better. Of course this year was different with a larger room and plenty of distance, and wearing of masks.

It's important as a not-for-profit organization that we are continually evaluating and looking for opportunities. For over 70 years Rock of Ages has served this community by staying current, and thoughtfully considering change that benefits the mission with new opportunities. We are excited about a decision by the Board of Directors to venture out and expand our services into an Adult Foster Care setting. An offer has been made and accepted on a 60 acre parcel that has a 3800 square foot home, out buildings, and plenty of room to consider other programs. If it all moves forward more details will be coming.

(Delvin continued on pg 4)

Chaplain's Corner



Mark Nissley

The view from the Chaplain's office this morning is stunning. I see the sunrise accenting the peak of Mount Jefferson surrounded by the pastel colors of the clouds as the sun reflects on them. I pause, and there rises in me a "pop tart bite" of praise. It makes me want to just sit and watch. Sometimes I do.

The truth is that there are quite a few days, when the view is not so great. These Oregon winter rains, and mornings when everything seems blanketed with a heavy fog sometimes totally hide the view. When that happens, it is easy to forget the existence of not only the distant mountain, but also the stunning view that will appear when it clears up.

For many, this year has been spiritually blanketed with the fog of the unknown, the rains of fear and the clouds of danger so that they not only lose sight of what is out there, but also the memories of the lovely view that will eventually be visible.

This is where faith becomes essential. We know that

those mountains are there even when we cannot see them. We know that our Heavenly Father is not only the Creator of it all, but controls it all, without even breaking a sweat!

I have at times struggled with these Oregon winters which seem to last for a really long time. This year I have struggled with how our COVID situation has hung on far longer than any of us anticipated, giving us a real challenge to the knowledge that God is, and will always be present, and in control. I believe that He gives humans the ability to choose and does not take away the results of those choices. He will, however, intervene when and how He chooses.

Let us then together keep proclaiming the truth of God's love and grace even when it seems barely visible. Let us keep sharing the "lively Hope" we will always have in Christ Jesus! He is alive!

My Father-in-law's favorite song expresses much of what I feel this morning as I see the beauty and through the eyes of faith will see tonight and tomorrow, when the view is gone, be encouraged!

(Chaplain continued on pg 4)

Honoring our Employees

Employees of the Month



Leslie Harrison
EOM for September. 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.



Fernando Ramirez
EOM for October. Fernando came to work with us again in 2020. He left for a period to help the neighbors. Fernando's "can do and getter done" attitude serves him and Rock of Ages well. He and his brother, Ismael, work together in the maintenance dept., and we are grateful for all their hard work. Thank you, Fernando



Tommie Cruz Leal
EOM for November. Tommie is an excellent caregiver in our Memory Care. Her work is always done and done right. She has lots of caregiving knowledge from previous positions and is a very patient teacher from whom we are all privileged to learn. We are so grateful to have her on our team.

At a recent men's Bible study I attend, my friend Ken Morse related this bit of insight: "We need to leave room for God to surprise us."

The Lighter Side

From the Cloverdale Farms reader board:

- The beginning is the most important part of any work.
- Life is like an echo, what is sent out is what you get back!

(Shaffer continued from pg one)

52 years. It is not surprising that they were such soul mates, as Richard was also from a ranch background in Laramie, Wyoming. Richard had realized that he would have to give up the cowboy life that he loved in order to support a family, so he went to work for the police department in Laramie. Richard's first marriage did not work out so he and his brother Ralph headed for Alaska where he went to work for the Sitka police department. Magic happened for Margee and Richard when they came together in Alaska, and they were married on September 11, 1968. Margee worked for the Dept. of Motor Vehicles and the Ketchikan Pioneers' Home. Unfortunately, Richard was wounded in the line of duty during his police work, so he had to give up his career as a police officer in Alaska. However, good things sometimes come out of misfortune, and Richard and Margee came to Oregon where he earned a law degree from Willamette U. During this time Margee worked for the Dept. of Motor Vehicles in Salem. They returned to Alaska where Richard had a successful law practice until finally retiring in 2006 at age 69. Margee was also retired so they enjoyed retirement until they were compelled to move to McMinnville in 2008 to find the health care that Richard needed. Richard left the earth on January 17, 2020. Margee was devastated by her loss, but through her faith, and the support of faithful family and friends, she is beginning to blossom again into the Margee she is meant to be. She reflects on her blessings, which include seven children collectively, 17 grandchildren, and 12 great grandchildren. She also feels blessed to be living at Rock of Ages/Valley View with such a wonderful support system, and knows that with the help of God, she has endured and conquered a very challenging year, and knows that in due time she will join Richard again. Meanwhile, Margee cherishes memories of the many wonderful adventures she had with her husband, and knows that she will always feel his presence and influence. Margee misses her two sons, Dave Holt and Dan Holt who still live in Alaska, but due to the Covid-19 virus have not been able to visit her for the past year. Neither has she been able to see her step children Chuck Shaffer, Jan Stafford, Marie Wetherall, and Rollo Shaffer or their children scattered all across the United States., Margee has many fun stories of the boys growing up in Alaska that she would be happy to share.

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Label

(Chaplain continued from pg 2)

The song is called: *I Believe in God*
by Geraldine Koehn

The first two verses go like this:

I believe in God even though I can't see him,

Even when He is silent, I know He is there,

I know if I wait on the Lord and will listen

In a still small voice, he speaks to me here.

I believe that the sun, even when I can't see it,

Is there when the clouds keep it hidden from view,

I know it will shine once again in its splendor,

When the clouds break away and let it shine through.

(Delvin continued from pg 2)

The Board also had lengthy discussions about protecting our mission with strong Board development and a mission-focused leadership team. The Board discussed the CEO position since it is only a few years before I consider retiring, and we need to make sure leaders are in place for that transition. This all requires ongoing development of new leaders.

Another goal this coming year that has been hampered by the pandemic is to support BMA Inc. in building the Voluntary Service program. A couple wanting to come as house parents has been interrupted by travel and other challenges. Plans are for the potential house parents to visit now in February. We are hoping 2021 will allow this program to grow and become a vital mission field for young people while helping the Rock of Ages community serve the frail and elderly.