

Valley View Voice

Valley View Retirement Village • Rock of Ages Mennonite Home • M.A.I.D.S. • McMinnville, Oregon • Summer 2023

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Valley View Voice

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John and Monika Lautenbach

by
Victoria Wilbanks

John's parents immigrated to the USA in the early part of the 20th century and John was born in Artesia, California in 1932, the fourth child in a family of six children, five of whom were girls. His father and grandfather were both dairy farmers amongst the many citrus growers. John gave a wonderful description of rural life when he was a child in the Anaheim area, not unlike Yamhill County, with all the little towns adjoining each other. Of course it is now a huge metropolis, with Disneyland being the center of it all. John went to a Christian school which was started by his father, and two of his father's associates in 1935.

In 1937 Monika was born in Magdeburg, Germany, a large town on the east side of the river Elbe, which was under Russian occupation after the war. Later the family was able to relocate to the west.

After high school, John took a job in the dairy industry for a couple of years working on analyzing the fat content

of milk. However, as was expected, he was drafted into the army during the Korean conflict, and spent two years at the Presidio as a medic in the dispensary serving the needs of the army language school in Monterey. At age 25, John began taking pre-med subjects, along with German at the University of Long Beach. This is where a professor advised him to enroll in medical school in Germany which was what he did in 1956, after he was discharged from the army. John was fortunate to meet Rickard Wagner, a wealthy German banker, who asked him to teach English to his son in return for very elegant room and board, which he gladly accepted. This arrangement helped John get established in medical school, but after a year, he applied to live in the university coed dorm, where he met Monika, who was to become his lifelong mate. They both graduated by 1966, and were also married in 1966 after four years of engagement. John worked at a hospital in Germany while he completed his Ph.D with his dissertation on the US Health System, which is still in print today. Monika did what she was trained for and taught school. Another landmark for the couple was the birth of their only son in Germany. After 11 years in Germany John and Monika returned to the United States on a Norwegian freighter



Submitted photo

From Delvin's Desk



Let me introduce BJ and Alisha Thelander. Read on to the end for more about the Thelanders and our excitement about their joining the Rock of Ages family.

I am sitting here today thinking that this is the last article I will write for this newsletter as CEO. Time does not stand still and changes take place. As I ponder about the years that have passed—41 years, one month and nineteen days— since Twila and I began the Rock of Ages journey. After spending the first year-and-a-half volunteering here at Rock of Ages, we realized that what we saw was the fulfillment of the dreams and commitment from past years. We committed our lives to further the Mission. This year Rock of Ages celebrates 75 years of service to the community. Our prayer is that the work will continue to make a difference for those who live here.

But where did it come from and who had a vision to start Rock of Ages 75 years ago? Joe and Adah Kropf donated land in 1948 for a farm where folks off the streets in Portland, through the Rock of Ages Rescue Mission had a place to go and recover from addictions. And so this place became the Rock of Ages Mennonite Home which later, as it's mission changed, became a center for care and retirement.

Maybe the greater question is WHY? What was its purpose or mission? During the 1940's a large growing Mennonite community began several mission projects: elder care centers like Rock of Ages Mennonite Home and Albany Mennonite Home, schools like Western Mennonite School, and a mission in Portland called Rock of Ages Rescue Mission. Also during this time many churches were planted from Beaver to Toledo, Oregon. Other churches including Wildwood on highway 22, Ballston Mennonite, a little later McMinnville Mennonite church— as many as 15 churches were established during this period. The little red school house near Bellevue was the first location of Western Mennonite School later moved to its present location near Lincoln. So why do some

thrive and some fade? That I can't answer for every situation; however, this I do know, if individuals or an organization do not have a mission (purpose) and a vision, one worthy of getting up each morning and fighting for every day, no matter how they "feel," THEIR PURPOSE WILL FADE!

It reminds me of that Bible quote: *Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.* (Proverbs 29:18). So what does vision have to do with keeping the law? When we lose our mission in life and have no vision we develop an attitude of not caring, we blame others for our problems, we give up, not wanting to do our best, sometimes even leading to lawlessness, which we see in our society today. Our commitment to working hard and serving others diminishes. Where there is no vision a person perishes. The same goes for an organization. An organization must have a vision and a leader who drives with purpose.

For Twila and I it's now time to pass the baton to someone younger. We are far from perfect but we have loved our work here and I have told many, "Not a morning goes by that I wasn't ready and looking forward to face the day". Were there tough days? Absolutely, but we were willing to fight through for a better day, focusing on the real purpose of being here!

The plan is that leadership will be handed over in the near future. I'm really excited to introduce BJ Thelander who is working with me and training to lead the organization as CEO. BJ and his wife Alisha have four children. BJ is a visionary who will take the organization to the next level. You will hear more about and from the Thelanders as leadership changes take place in the next few weeks.

Twila and I are grateful for the opportunity we have had serving the community here with our family who continue to support the ministry in many ways. We plan now to just be residents and experience another chapter of our lives here at Rock of Ages and look forward to continuing the many lifetime friendships we have made over the years.

Honoring our Employees

Employees of the Month

Gracie Opheim - January 2023



Gracie works in our Memory Care. She is very loving and caring with residents and staff. She has really excelled in her job since she came to us two years ago. Thank you, Gracie, for your caring spirit.

Luis Rojas, Rebecca Cross & Erica Lobatos - March 2023



Luis, Rebecca & Erica were chosen as employees of the month for March. They do a fabulous job in the kitchen and we so appreciate their leadership and willingness to step in and support the kitchen

Antonio Romero - April 2023



Antonio works in the M.A.I.D.S. department. He is loved by residents and staff for his dependability, kindness and willingness to step in and help whenever needed. Thank you, Antonio, for your commitment to Rock of Ages

FALL PREVENTION FOR OLDER ADULTS

Falls are a threat to the health of older adults and can reduce their ability to remain independent. Making your home safe is the first step.

- Get rid of things you could trip over
- Add grab bars inside and outside your tub or shower and next to the toilet
- Put railings on both sides of the stairs.
- Make sure your home has lots of light by adding more or brighter light bulbs.

(Lautenbach continued from pg 1)

on July 4, 1970 and landed in New York harbor, which was very memorable, complete with fireworks.

The first place they called home in the US was Tucson, Arizona, where John had a practice for four years. Although the couple worked hard at their professions, they were also able to take vacations and travel all over Europe. In Germany they researched the Lautenbach family history back to 1537, and John proudly displays the family tree on a wall in their home. They also treasure a lovely book with the Lautenbach family crest on the front. This book contains all of the family history. They also traveled much of the United States, enjoying many of the state parks. One of their first US trips took them to Oregon, where Monika discovered green landscapes that reminded her of home, much different from the stark Arizona desert. They decided at that point to make Oregon their home, and when they arrived in McMinnville, John began working in internal medicine and had a long and satisfying practice. He was also the initial Medical Director of Hospice in Yamhill County, and served on the board of the Yamhill County Gospel Rescue Mission and helped establish the Sunrise Church (Reformed) in McMinnville in 1986. John also remembers that he learned the lifelong skill of playing golf while with the US Army on one of the finest golf courses in the world at Pebble Beach, California.

Through Linfield College, Monika was able to get her German teaching credentials certified while she was getting her Master's Degree, and began teaching German in the McMinnville School District. Her students loved her classes, especially her advanced students whom she took on a German immersion trip to Europe every other year. Monika was also an avid pilot. She had her own plane, a Cessna 140 tail dragger. She had over 2500 hrs. and loved to fly early in the morning up high where she felt especially close to God. John is also a pilot and they, for many years, owned a larger Cessna 182 which they used for longer trips.

All this time Ebbing, their son, was busy growing up, and he eventually went to Calvin College, majoring in chemistry and psychology. He later went to Columbia Medical School, where he met his future wife Gillian. Both went to work at the

(Lautenbach continued on pg 6)

Life in the Village

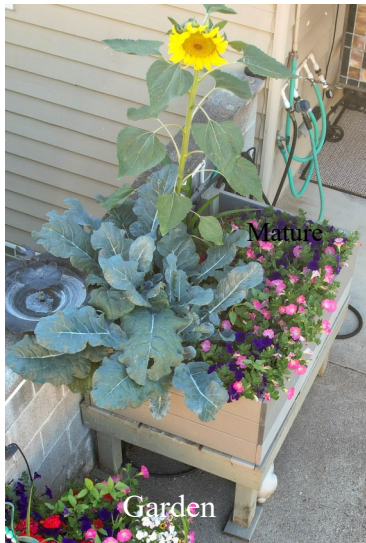
by Jan Noland, photos by Gary Noland

God's Beauty at The Rock

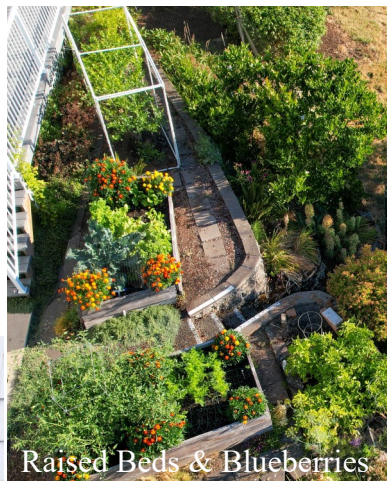
We all are blessed with much beauty around our campus...from flowering gardens to bountiful vegetable gardens.

Whether it's flowers or vegetables, Rock of Ages gardeners share. Most of the campus marigolds are seeds tenderly nurtured by Teresa. Many of the bushes, like hydrangeas, came from starts from a neighbor's bush. Flower starts and bulbs are shared. Harvested vegetables are shared. What a pleasure it is to walk or drive around the campus to see bits of God's creation & beauty we can all enjoy living here.

Colorful flower gardens abound. These photos are a small sampling of residents flower beds.



Assorted veggies growing in individual garden raised beds, grow boxes, a bed on stilts, and the Community Garden.



Raised Beds & Blueberries



Small front yard color spot



corner patio utilizes lots of marigolds & even has a lime tree



Vegetable Grow Box

In the deer proof community garden, six gardeners are growing veggies this year. Each one has a raised bed to grow: garlic & onions, tomatoes, peppers, broccoli, beans, salad greens, beets, and assorted squash.



Unique yard with antique garden art



Community Garden



Terraced front yard color spot

Rock of Ages Fun Festival

August 12, 2023

A day of family friendly fun!

Celebrating 75 years of serving our community!

Concerts and activities are FREE!



7:00-9:00am - Tethered Hot Air Balloon
8:00am - Breakfast
9:00am - McMinnville Aircraft Modelers
-Car Show
-Kids Village -
Bouncy House, Water Slides,
Games, Activities
-Horse & Wagon Rides
-Serendipity Two Ice Cream Truck
11:00am - Candy Bomber

11:30am - Lunch &
Music-The! Little Big Band
Food available (at a minimal charge)
2:00pm - Afternoon and evening of
music featuring:
The GillyGirls Band
The Cragun's
Along with 75 years of Rock of Ages
memories!



The Cragun's



The GillyGirls Band

Valley View Retirement Village
15600 SW Rock of Ages Road
McMinnville, OR 97128
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www.rockofagesvalleyview.com
Visit us on Facebook!

Your donation of canned food
for local food banks is
appreciated.

Directions: Old Sheridan Road to Peavine Road, turn left on Youngberg Hill Road, continue to Rock of Ages entrance and concert site. Follow the signs!

Bible Mennonite Fellowship, Inc. dba

Rock of Ages

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(Lautenbach continued from pg 3)

University of Pennsylvania, he as the Chief of the department dealing with infectious diseases, and Gillian as Director of the Outpatient Department. The couple have four children, John, Kathryn and twins William and Thomas.

John reports that he discovered Rock of Ages/ Valley View while on his medical visits to see patients, and always reserved the Rock of Ages visit for the end of his day, so that he could enjoy the ambiance of the campus to the fullest. He was apparently laying plans in his mind for when he and Monika could retire on the campus when the time came. They are here now, and are so happy they are. It is a perfect fit for them.

Rock of Ages Endowment

(501-C-3 organization)

Thank you for considering Rock of Ages
Endowment in your estate planning!
Your gift will keep giving and help Rock of
Ages provide loving care for those we serve.

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