



LEGENDS

Matulaitis Summer Family Newsletter

10 Thurber Road, Putnam, CT 06260

www.matulaitisnh.org



June 21, 2018

Vol 4

Issue 2

Matulaitis Celebrates 50 Years of Caring



Holy Mass was held in the Chapel in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Matulaitis Rehab & Skilled Care.

See stories and additional photos on page 10.



Holy Mass on June 14, 2018 was con-celebrated by Fr. Chodakowski, MIC, Fr. Backiel, MIC, Fr. Alar, MIC, Fr. Roth, MIC and Fr. Sadauskas in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Matulaitis Rehab & Skilled Care.

Oldest Resident Celebrates 104th Birthday

Danute Augius was honored by her family on the grand occasion of her 104th birthday on April 1, 2018.

The family enjoyed a nice lunch and special birthday cake in the cozy conference room on A-wing!

(seated) Danute Augius is surrounded by family in celebration of her 104th birthday. Daughter Ruta is also seated. (Standing l-r) daughter-in-law Rasa, son Dzingas, daughter-in-law Jurate, son Jurges and son-in-law Rymas.

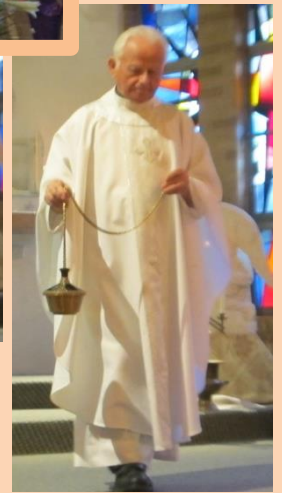
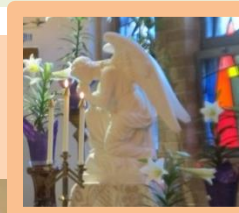


Palm Sunday March 25, 2018

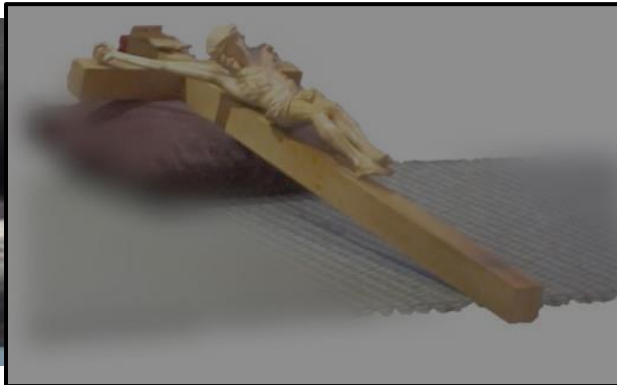


On Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Easter, we commemorate the triumphant arrival of Christ in Jerusalem, days before he was crucified.

Holy Thursday



Holy Thursday is the commemoration of the Last Supper of Jesus Christ, when he established the sacrament of Holy Communion prior to his arrest and crucifixion.



*Without Good Friday
there would be no
Easter Sunday*



Easter is the celebration of Christ's resurrection from the dead!

His resurrection marks the triumph of good over evil, sin and death. It is the singular event which proves that those who trust in God and accept Christ will be raised from the dead. Since Easter represents the fulfillment of God's promises to mankind, it is the most important holiday on the Christian calendar.



Easter Season of New Life

Sr. Bernadette made this gorgeous palm and forsythia display that was present on the altar at Palm Sunday Mass. The forsythia was not in bloom yet so Sister cut them and put them in water for one week.

A single leaf was left behind 6 years ago when a resident moved. Sister Bernadette lovingly cared for it until it made its' debut at the altar at Easter.



Lisa Ryan Welcomed as Matulaitis Administrator



Lisa Ryan

Matulaitis Rehabilitation and Skilled Care is pleased to announce Lisa Ryan as the new Administrator.

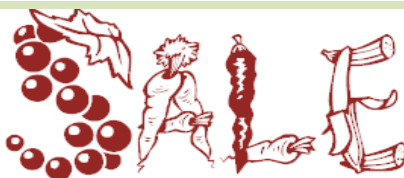
Lisa has been a licensed Nursing Home Administrator since 1990 in both Massachusetts and Connecticut. She is also a Certified Care Manager and had a solo practice providing Geriatric care management to families and care givers. Most recently Lisa came from a small 60 bed facility in Colchester CT to join Matulaitis. She plans to “continue the mission of the Sisters, deliver quality care and be a good community partner”.

Lisa resides in Mystic, CT with her husband and daughter, 2 dogs, 2 cats and a fish named Paul.

TOMATO PLANT



It was March 20, the first day of Spring, when resident Helen Boyll planted herb seeds and transplanted tomatoes



Manon Meunier, MDS Coordinator, Wendy Ross, Director of Activities and resident Helen Boyll at the May 30th plant sale.

Then, after 2 months of patient waiting, Helen joined the Activity Department in the dining room to sell tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, green beans, peas, potato, squash and herbs. \$60 was raised for one flat of annuals.

Special thanks to:

- Nurse Mary Pechie for donating vegetable seeds
- The Parziale family for donating 4 flats of annuals

And then it was time to Plant!



Cherry tomatoes will fill the deep raised garden bed on the B-patio along with the marigolds that Flo Grant planted at her out-program.

At left, Activity Director Nicole Zannini and resident Del Dubreuil plant annuals in the patio. The flowers were donated by the family of Laura Parziale, shown here with daughter, Denise.

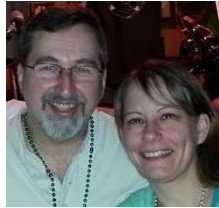
At right, Resident Alice Hill and daughter Kathy ‘supervised’ the planting and enjoyed the sunshine!



Lessons Learned from Heartbreak



Estelle Wright from North Grosvenordale, CT is dealing with her own health crisis but still found the time to crochet hats to donate to Matulaitis. The glass in her hand was the strawberry milkshake that reminds her to “live while you can!”



Tom and Jennifer Prapuolenis from Dudley, MA spent several years caring for Jennifer’s Mom and then Dad at their home. When Dad passed, they donated the rest of their stockpile of men’s “Depends” to Matulaitis.

Men’s Group. Jacob Trembly, Activity Department aide, is the host of his own Activity! “Men’s Club: Cooking with Jacob” premiered in early April. On this day, the boys were making mini crescent dogs with Richard Mandeville, Larry Bellerose, Gerry Messier, Joanne St. Cyr, Activity Staff RoJeanne Doege and Bill Jones. The group meets Wednesdays at 4pm.

Making Music Ed Morin presented another ‘Music History’ that featured the 50’s band, “The Platters” and disco music from the 80’s. Ed, whose wife was a rehab resident at Matulaitis years ago, comes back seasonally to share his program.



Have you seen the artwork that is displayed in the window of the Activity Dept on C wing? Sr. Laimute, MVS, has been painting for several years and her acrylics on canvas are displayed for all to see! Her stunning pieces will change seasonally.



SPIRITUALITY GROUPS

“Faith is so important to our mission of caring for the whole person; body, mind, and spirit.”

Shortly after Olivia Chalifoux became Director of Spiritual Care in October 2017, she began the “Spirituality Group”. Residents would meet each Wednesday at 1:30 in D-Lounge for Gospel, conversation, prayer and song. The Group quickly gained popularity throughout Matulaitis.

Christina Bourquin, a member of the Matulaitis Spiritual Care Team, soon proposed a second group to provide for the spiritual needs of low-functioning residents. Together, they created the “Sensory Spirit Group”. The team uses familiar hymns, prayers, and Scripture to connect with residents’ memories. Christina and Olivia make it a point to personally interact with each resident encouraging those who are able to join in singing, holding or stroking their hands, connecting with each person as they are able, making eye contact and smiling. What a beautiful response!



Above, Olivia Chalifoux gives special care to May Benoit at the Sensory Spirit Group; Christina Bourquin is seen at middle. At left, Father Jerry Zalonis and Sr. Paul chat in Spirituality Group.

3rd Annual Spring Tea

April 29, 2018



Carolyn Rogers and Lorraine Lagarde create the tea cups with fresh flowers for the tables for the 3rd Annual Spring Tea hosted by the Family Council. More than 60 residents and families attended.



Linnea Kallgren with daughter Carolyn



Fr. Sadauskas with Dora Titchen and daughter Linda.



Stella Desrochers and daughter Pat.



Luella Miller with family Fr Don, Carol, Judy and Richard.



Raffaella Giordano with daughter Marie and Bob



Marjorie Palazini and husband Norman



Harold Dumas with daughters Barbara and Patty (standing is Family Council member Jennifer Langelier)



Jane and "Duffy" Duffany



Annette Young and daughter Kim



Fr. Sadauskas with Connie Knapp



Priscilla Lafleche with her sisters Lorette and Connie.



IMPROMPTU BINGO

WHAT'S BETTER?

Residents were scheduled to go outside, but when the weather didn't cooperate, they gladly filed into the A-Lounge for an impromptu Bingo game!

All in a Day...



Matulaitis Medical Director, Dr. Alessandro, joins Matt Parker, Larry Bellerose and Tom Mistark for a game of cribbage!

"I'm ready for my close-up"



ALWAYS ON THE RUN
Italia Mucci gets beautiful after the 2pm movie & popcorn and before some free time before dinner.



Mildred Bailey (seated) with her daughter. Behind them is the picture Mildred colored and trimmed in woven ribbon that is displayed in the activity room.



By Denise Harkins
Most days, you can find Adelard "Del" Dubreuil on the 1st floor at Matulaitis... but good luck keeping up with him! He admits with a glowing smile that he's

"getting up there"... but that doesn't seem to stop him! "Did you know that each hallway is 200 feet long...one way?" Del has asked me more than once. At 98-years-old, Del knows because he walks each ward every day.

In his younger days, Del worked in the Putnam mills and "never missed a day of work". He enjoyed archery, hiking, biking and especially swimming. Until the age of 92, he was swimming 200 yards every day. At 58 he started biking. "I would ride 25 to 30 miles a day, every day. No problem."

These days, Del rides the stationery bike in the Physical Therapy Department each morning. He does 500 reps daily... that's almost a half mile!

At right, Del transfers weights to the new Activity Dept wagon.



Matulaitis Employees go

Above and Beyond



It was understandable when resident Joanne St. Cyr wanted to attend her daughter's appearance in the ensemble of her high school performance of "Grease"... but how would she get there?

That's when Matulaitis Activity Director Nicole Zannini and her sister, CNA Chrissy Faucher stepped up!

The trio took an accessible taxi to Plainfield High School where they enjoyed watching Lauren King, 17, perform!



"I'm getting old, but I feel good."

Del Dubreuil



National Nursing Home Week was May 13-19

Angels ON Earth

The theme for Volunteer Week was "Celebrating Life Stories"

Reminiscing is important to the elderly – stories from long ago become reality in their minds eye....

Sunday was Mother's Day. The Family Council passed out carnations for all female visitors. Female residents wore silk corsages made and donated by the Livernoche family in honor of their mother who lived here years ago. Residents made flower arrangements with the fresh lilacs from outside and had sweet cakes. (See more Mother's Day on next page)

Monday began the week with a banjo concert by "Just Two" outside! The sun came out (top photo at right) and residents enjoyed the music. There was an old car in the back driveway. Residents could guess the make and model to win a prize.

At 3pm, Family Council Chairperson, Patricia Simoni, and members Kathy Elliot and Jane Duffany (2nd photo at far right) presented Christiana Dennis-Fallah, Director of Nursing, with a plaque with a poem for Matulaitis employees to show appreciation for the loving care they give every day to our loved ones. See the poster right off the elevator.



Tuesday was Karaoke with songs from the 40s, 50's and 60's.

Wednesday was "make your own ice cream sundae". (3rd photo at far right) Barbara Frederick, Connie Knapp and Phyllis Lafleche enjoy the ice cream.



Thursday was breakfast for the staff and Pastor Gil's Christian service at 3pm for residents



Friday was dress up 80's style. Resident council met with the newer Representatives and an introduction of the new administrator.



PHOTOS ON LEFT, TOP TO BOTTOM:

Bill Jones with grand-daughter Rebecca. Director of Spiritual Care Olivia Chalifoux and

Marvin Wilbur sing Karaoke in D-Lounge. Car Quiz Winners: Human Resource Director Sarah Adams (at right) presented gifts to Joanne St.Cyr and Tom Mistark AT the Resident Council Meeting. On right is Resident Council Rep Larry Bellerose. Residents and staff enjoy "balloon Ping-Pong"

Mothers: The Heart of Our Home



(l-r) Resident Linnea Kallgren (center) received some special visitors! At left is her sister Sonja Healey and her niece Joy Ng.

Raffaella Giordano leaves for lunch with daughter Marie and husband Bob.

Bruce Elliot gives Mother-In-Law Alice Hill a manicure

Family Council members Jennifer Langelier, Chairperson Patricia Simoni and Treasurer Denise Harkins greet family members to present carnations.

Marvin Wilbur with Family Council members Jennifer Langelier and Kathy Elliot.



Mother's Day is another busy day at Matulaitis!



...never saw so many flowers!

Milestone Birthdays

BIRTHDAYS WE CELEBRATED THIS SPRING!



Danute Augius 104 Years	Emily Paskauskas 102 Years	May Benoit 101 Years	Monica Savolis 95 Years	Emily Masiello 90 Years	Yvette Pleau 90 Years	Priscilla Lafleche 85 Years	Constance Noon 80 Years
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Besties Raffaella Giordano and Cecelia Avila walk arm-in-arm into the A-Lounge!



Green Valley Church in RI came to visit and gave 15 plants out to residents! At left, Green Valley adults and youngster pose with residents.



The Celebration Continued for Three Days...

From page 1



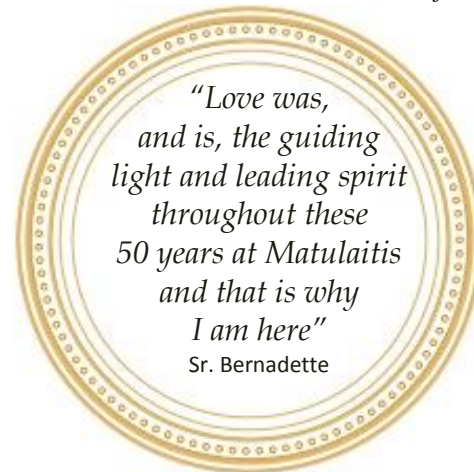
The Matulaitis Choir, the MerryTones, made a joyful noise to the Lord at the 50th Anniversary Mass on June 14, 2018. Staff members shown are (l-r) Nancy Van Belle, LPN; Dainora Kupcinkas, Director of Social Services and Mission Integration; Sarah Adams, Director of Human Resources; Bryan Charles Innes, Maintenance; RoJeanne Doege, Activity Assistant; Lynda Carter, Social Services Designee. Members not shown are Sue Weber, Medical Records; Melissa Combies, Scheduler; Carolyn Wells, Financial Manager; Christina Bourquin, Pastoral Care Associate; Olivia Chalifoux, Director of Spiritual Care; Allan Caldwell, Genesis Rehab; and Deb Sheehan, LPN, Staff Development.



State Rep Danny Rovero, who has a long family history with Matulaitis, presents Sr. Bernadette and Matulaitis with a proclamation from the State of Connecticut General Assembly.



The musician, in traditional Lithuanian garb, was Simona Minns who played the kankles, the national instrument of Lithuania.



"Love was, and is, the guiding light and leading spirit throughout these 50 years at Matulaitis and that is why I am here"
Sr. Bernadette



More than 100 residents and their families enjoyed the 50th anniversary celebration on Friday, June 15, 2018 in the auditorium.



By Patricia Simoni

Memories are one of the most important faculties a resident with Dementia or Alzheimer has. Listening to music helps to bring back many memories for these residents. It is a real joy when you put the music in place, via the IPod, to see the resident clap their hands or stomp their feet in rhythm to the music or maybe break out in song or give you a big smile. Otherwise, they may be sitting quietly in their chair. This joy happens frequently while working with those residents in the Music and Memory program here at Matulaitis.

Residents are referred to this program by the social worker, staff, or family members. We currently have 35 residents participating in the program. The music and the use of the IPod for each resident are reviewed regularly, and residents are evaluated quarterly by the Quality Measures report established by the Center of Medical Services (CMS). Music is updated as needed or when requested by the resident or family. An updated in-service took place for the staff on the use of the IPods. Staff is encouraged to put the music in place for the resident. The program has been established for a little over 2 years and over 76 residents have participated.

We currently have updated the Music and Memory book for the staff on the four wings which include new policy/procedures and information on the use of the IPod. Overall, since the implementation of their personalized music, the residents' experience more pleasant behavior more frequently.

The IPod is the property of Matulaitis, unless personally purchased by the family, and is assigned for individual use only. Donations of used IPods or a monetary donation to the program is always gratefully welcomed. Donations may be made to Matulaitis and sent to the Administrator, Lisa Ryan.

(l-r) Volunteer Rosa Nguyen with Blanche Currier, Sonja "Diane" Burns and Rosa with Jeannett Sullivan



NEWS & INFORMATION

The Matulaitis Family Council continues to DO GOOD THINGS!

As you saw from the family photos on page 6, the 3rd Annual Spring Tea was wildly successful! More than 60 residents and family members joined us in the auditorium to welcome spring.

On page 9 you see our Mother's Day carnation give-a-way. It was a beautiful day!

The next Family Council Meeting will be held on **THURSDAY, JULY 12th** at 6pm in D-Lounge to accommodate our speaker, new Administrator, Lisa Ryan. We look forward to you joining us for this meeting and helping us plan for our Family Picnic in September/October. We will also be planning for our fall raffle and welcome any items you would be willing to contribute to make it another successful year. Hope to see you there.

Call Chairperson Patricia Simoni for donations, (860) 315-5193



Denise Harkins and Rosa Nguyen are only two of the 50 volunteers at Matulaitis.

Matulaitis Celebrated Volunteer Week

Volunteering in a nursing home may be outside your usual ‘comfort zone’... at first. It doesn’t take long to get to know residents by name and to fall in love with them!

Volunteers help both the community and individuals at Matulaitis, but the benefits swiftly boomerang back. There’s no greater satisfaction than a bright smile from a resident when they see you enter a room. Making a difference in their day is the best feeling in the world.

More than 50 people volunteer at Matulaitis Rehab & Skilled Care. Volunteers transport residents to Mass or activities, help at Bingo, sing, read, visit, draw or paint, do crafts, play games, help water the garden, do manicures, etc.

National Volunteer Week was celebrated on April 15-21. Wendy Ross, Director of the Activity Department, is especially appreciative of those who share their time and talent with residents.

“I believe it is a great learning opportunity for the volunteers and a great experience for everyone,” Wendy said.

Watching nature in the climbing clematis plant...



Residents and staff alike have enjoyed watching a momma bird care for her babies in the nest on the A-lounge patio.

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Next LEGENDS Issue: 9/23/18
 CONTRIBUTORS
 Wendy Ross
 Patricia Simoni
 Dainora Kupcinskas



No matter your skills, there's something you can volunteer to do.

In Loving Memory

To those we lost this spring

- Robert Champagne
- John Coderre
- Marguerite Cloutier
- Pauline Laframboise
- Norman Fellows
- Claire Bartolomei
- James Larkin
- Rose McDavitt
- Alice Kitka
- Joseph Scanlon
- Ona Jonuschaite Sr. Loretta
- Henrietta Kuszj
- Petronele Martinaityte Sr. Arkadija
- Raymond Daigle
- Edward Bielik
- Rita Zadora
- Joyce Paine
- Ida Clarke
- Barbara Gleason
- Russell Robbins

See the Memorial Book in the 1st floor meeting room.