



LEGENDS

Matulaitis Autumn Family Newsletter

10 Thurber Road, Putnam, CT 06260

www.matulaitisnh.org



September 23, 2019

Vol 5

Issue 3

MATULAITIS HOSTS GREATEST SHOW IN PUTNAM



With the support of Matulaitis staff and families, Activity Director Nicole Zannini raised enough money doing 7 weekly raffles to hold a carnival for all to enjoy!

The sun came out promptly at 1 o'clock on September 13 as the tall surprise guest sauntered onto the patio. The stilt-walker, shown above, entertained residents with juggling, jokes and some magic. There was cotton candy, popcorn and a clown making balloon hats for residents. Great Job, Nicky!



(above) Grace Marcy and Director of Activities Wendy Ross. 2) Rena Vincent. 3) Jeannette and Richard Turcotte. 4) Henriette Blanchette 5) Dorothy Salisbury with daughter Ann and, 6) Eva Oates.

See more photos on page 12



Fr. Sadauskas Visits Lithuania

Fr. Izidorius Sadauskas returned to St. John Bosco in Vilnius, Lithuania, last month.

The Salesian Church and convent were constructed in 1993 under his administration.

Employee Appreciation

Many of our employees are too young to remember the magical jingle of the Mister Softee truck as it approached your neighborhood. Every kid would get money from Mom and then run toward the truck. It was the sound of summer in the 60's and 70's. Although it has gone the way of the Book Mobile (anybody?), there are still about 600 franchised trucks in the U.S.

Administrator Lisa Ryan found one of those trucks and brought it here to celebrate the first day of summer and to celebrate the hardworking staff of Matulaitis.



Administrator Lisa Ryan photobombs Heather Gagne, CNA now Nursing Scheduler, and Activity Director Nicole Zannini as they celebrate summer at the first-day-of-summer Employee Appreciation Day. Mister Softee is waving from the truck.



Mister Softee is having as much fun as Activity Aide Regina Morgan and Director of Activities Wendy Ross at the June 21 Employee Appreciation Day.

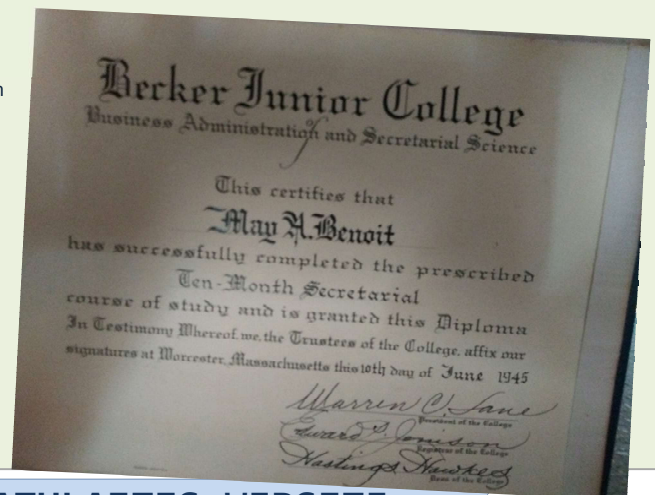
May gets Mail



May Benoit was invited to her 75th Class reunion from Becker Junior College in Worcester, MA.

Now named Becker College, May received her Associate's Degree in "Business Administration and Secretarial Sciences" in 1944.

She was unable to attend as she is 102-years-old!



CHECK OUT THE MATULAITIS WEBSITE

The monthly Activity Calendar and "Legends" seasonal Family Newsletter are available online at

<http://matulaitisnh.org/news-testimonials/>

This newsletter is also available in the lobby and is posted on the bulletin board at the beginning of C wing

Visiting Mom



Edith Sirianni gets a visit from daughter Donna and great granddaughter, Mila.



A STROLL ON D-WING

CNA Amanda Lombardo loves her friends on D wing. Grace Marcy said, "She's the best there ever was!!"



Old friends



Dorothy Davis and Brenda Baker have been friends for 60 years. They enjoy time together at the Tuesday afternoon sing-a-long in the D-lounge.

New Friends



"Hi Hunny Bunny!" Paul Hebert and Emily Masiello can be seen together often at Matulaitis.

She's Got the Music

Not only does Gloria Vrabel know every word to every song we play at the Tuesday sing-a-long, but she has plenty of fun! Below she is dancing with Sr. Paul.



Celebration of the Century

Friends & Family Near & Far



The Year 1919 was an important time in US history. The Treaty of Versailles was signed to end WWI, Congress passed the 19th Amendment to the Constitution and Jeannette LaRoche was born in the bustling mill town of North Grosvenordale, CT.

Despite growing up during the depression, Jeannette graduated from Killingly High School and began work as a secretary for William Prym, Inc. where she met Joseph Baier. They married on October 18, 1941 at St. Joseph Church in Dayville and had three children; Ed, Steve and Cheryl. The family lived in Dayville and made memories on their 2-acre field flying kites, riding mini bikes, skiing down home-made slopes and spending time together sailing at Alexander's Lake.

"What always set Mom apart," began daughter Cheryl, *"was her amazing giving spirit and her love of fun and travel. She could enjoy life with the spirit of a little kid!"*

"Even today," Cheryl continued, *"Our exploration of Matulaitis' beautiful landscape brings her great joy!"*

Jeannette's great joy was evident on June 29 when more than 50 relatives and friends flew in from Pennsylvania, Illinois, Florida and Arizona to celebrate the occasion of Jeanette's 100th birthday. (Her actual birthday was May 31, but the logistics involved made that date impossible.) Still, the Matulaitis auditorium was filled with laughter, love and Jeanette's favorite people and foods.

Congratulations, Jeannette, only 1 in 4,500 people in the U.S. get to join the Centenarian Club!



Standing, left to right, Carol (Daughter-in-law), Ed (Son), Steve (Son), Sandi (Daughter-in-law), Vince (Grandson), Lizzie (Granddaughter-in-law.) Kneeling left to right, Steve (Son-in-law), Cheryl (Daughter), Jeanette, Ella-Rose (Great Granddaughter), Jason (Grandson), Caitlin (Granddaughter-in-law).

Impromptu PICNIC on the PATIO



A "DINING ROOM OUTSIDE LUNCH"!

July was the hottest month in Connecticut since records were kept (starting in 1902), making some outdoor activities uncomfortable and even dangerous. Luckily, Director of Activities, Wendy Ross planned to beat the heat with the help if Kitchen Manager Monique Lajoie. They had an impromptu picnic lunch on a beautiful July day for the dining room lunch crew.

(l-r) At the table Rita Bernier, Laura Parziale and Wanda Mahan and Monique Lajoie.



The theme of the August Seasonal Art Class was "abstract art." Local artist Theresa LaCasse from The Window Art Gallery in Putnam helps residents create abstract pieces. Various works are on display on the activity room windows.



(left) Theresa Culliton and daughter Alice, Activity Director Nicole Zannini with Charlotte Fougere, Regina Taunys and Claire Lajeunesse. (right) Shirley Goodno, Gloria Vrabel, Virginia Gantick and Theresa LaCasse.

Connie Noon spreads paint with a straw to create art!



← Barbara Yuill and Barbara Frederick get together for a game of war.



Pauline LaPerle → received this giant bear in the mail from her son, Eddie, while she and her daughter, Doris, played cards in the activity room. Happy 92, Pauline!



NATURE: Fuel for the Soul

Exercise, fresh air and sunshine improve mood and can increase overall feelings of happiness. Residents greatly enjoyed the outdoors this season with many activities. At right, Activity Director Nicole Zannini shares an ice pop with Dot Fournier. Below right, Director of Activities Wendy Ross and Laura Latham on the swings with Louis Allen. Bottom right, Diane, Kathy & Joseph Schimmelpennig, Activity Aide Regina Morgan and Shirley Goodno enjoy a craft project.





Matulaitis In Bloom! This stunning scene is brought to you by **The Creator**
...with a little help from Sunset Nurseries



← Kay Small and
 ← Theresa Barrette



(right) Sr. Theresa →
 enjoys gospel music in
 the B-lounge.



Angels ON Earth



*Gloria Vrabel and daughter, Ellen,
 enjoy the afternoon sun in the front of
 the building. "My Mom loves fresh
 fruit and time alone."*

Singin' in the D-Lounge

*Grand-
 daughter
 Hollis joins
 Dolores
 Mercik during
 sing-a-long
 with volunteer
 Joan
 Lebkuchner.
 The sing-a-
 long is held
 each Tuesday
 at 2:30 in D-
 lounge.*





CNA Tara Chattelle, CNA Shawn Lemery, and CNA Melissa spend time with Yvonne Briere on the patio for a picnic lunch.



WORSHIP SONGS ON THE PATIO

The spirituality group took advantage of a beautiful day to offer praises outside. Director of Spiritual Care Olivia Chalifoux, Christina Bourquin, Pastor Allaby and his daughter Darlene led the group.

Helen Boyll Shares her "Wonderful Indonesia"

Indonesia is a hidden gem in Southeast Asia with more than 17,000 islands in the Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean



Helen Boyll and her family moved around...a lot! In 1970, they spent 5½ years in Semarang, Indonesia. In that time, Helen developed an appreciation for the beauty and diversity of the Indonesian culture. She and daughter, Jennifer, shared her stories with residents on September 12.



They displayed an assortment of souvenirs collected from Indonesia. In the background, a leather painted wayang shadow puppet. On the table, purses made of batik, water buffalo leather wallets and purses made from batik-stamp goats' leather; piggy banks made from a coconut shell; a cormorant bird carved from a turtle shell; in the glass box, two dolls dressed in traditional costumes of the Indonesian Ramayana ballet.



Above, Helen and Jennifer model hand-made dresses from Indonesia. The embroidery on the fabric was a new Singer Sewing Machine embroidering process that the Ameri-



Indonesia has 300 ethnic groups; each has their own traditional dress variations.

ican company took to Indonesia to launch within the textile factories there. Back in 1970 the cost to have a dress hand-made to exact measurements was about \$5!

Milestone Birthdays

Birthdays we celebrated this summer!



Josephine Glass 102 Years	Marie Paparo 100 Years	Mary Champagne 95 Years	Claire Lajeunesse 90 Years	Alice Kitka 90 Years	Alfred Dumas 90 Years	Paul Hebert 85 Years	Florence Grant 80 Years
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C Wing Mascots

C Wing Unit Manager Bonnie Riker, RN, asked for suggestions to come up with a name for their goldfish.

Say hello to:

Dick & Jane

BANJOTRIO Entertains On the Patio



What a fabulous summer on the patio!!!

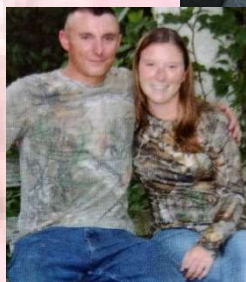


HANDEYE COORDINATION

(at left) Bumping a balloon back and forth promotes good eye, hand and neck coordination. Other benefits are: use of reflexes, flexibility, tracking skills, social time, fresh air, change of scenery, (l-r) Raffaella Giordano, Cecelia Avila, Charlotte Fougere, Gerry Messier and Mary Vertefeuille. (below) Gloria Starks and Gloria Vrabel shake hands. "My name is Gloria"... "No, my name is Gloria"... and so on it went!



This is Resident Dorothy Fournier



This is Dorothy's lovely granddaughter, Kristina and her fiance, Patrick.

Dorothy wanted nothing more than to attend her granddaughter's nuptials on September 21st... but how would she get there?

TUNE INTO THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE MATULAITIS FAMILY NEWSLETTER TO SEE WHO MADE THIS POSSIBLE...

Resident Council Assist State Inspectors



Each year the Department of Public Health and Centers for Medicare Services conducts inspections of every Connecticut nursing home that participates in Medicare and/or Medicaid. When the state came calling in August, they had to opportunity to speak with members of the Matulaitis Resident Council. Thank you, ladies & gentlemen of the Resident Council.

(l-r) Joan Laflamme, Jeannette Sullivan, Adrienne Theroux, Larry Bellerose, Kay Small, Connie Knapp, Barbara Frederick and Dorothy Davis.



Shirley Platt, Claire Lajeunesse and Food Service Supervisor Pam Bartolomei work on flower arrangements in the activity room.

The flowers were donated by Pam's neighbors at Echo Farm in North Woodstock.

thank you

HAPPY 90th to ALICE KITKA!



Family & friends surround Alice Kitka on the occasion of her 90th birthday!

WWII NAVY VETERAN SPEAKS AT MATULAITIS



“Chief” Al Cormier, Post 13 member and past commander, now Commander of American Legion District 4 - CT Ronald Coderre, Armand Jolly, “Smiley” Rivera, U.S. Army 62-65 Richard Mandeville, U.S. Navy Richard Turcotte and U.S. Army/Army Reserve 59-91 Larry Bellerose.



Armand is proud of the new hat that he received when he returned from the 75th Anniversary of D Day in June.

Today, WWII Veterans are in their 90's and 100's and less than 3% of WWII veterans are alive. Armand is one of only a handful of surviving veterans of the April 6, 1944 kamikaze attack on the USS Emmons.

Armand had not been out of the country since his time in the Navy. That is, until this past June when he and his family returned to the Normandy Beach battle fields in France to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of D-Day. *“I love France”*, Armand said to the Veterans at Matulaitis, *“It looked almost the same. It was a really nice trip.”*

It is crucial that mankind does not forget the brave men who lost their lives on the sea; it was an absolute honor to meet Armand Jolly.

He heard the news on the radio that Sunday night when he was just 19-years-old: It was December 7, 1941. The Japanese had invaded Hawaii in the first major land, sea and air engagement of World War II. More than 2,300 military personnel, mostly Navy, perished in the attack.

“That pi\$\$ed me off. [It was] like a sucker-punch”, said Armand Jolly, now 96. One month later, Armand, a Pomfret native, enlisted in the U.S. Navy. By June 6, 1944, Armand, 22, was a gunner's mate 3rd Class on the USS Emmons, a destroyer and minesweeper, when Allied Forces launched D-Day operations in Normandy, France.

Armand was the guest speaker last month at the Matulaitis Veterans Coffee House. He recounted the days as if it were yesterday. His

wit and matter-of-fact narrative captured the attention of the audience. His words made you laugh and cry...but mostly, *made you think*.

On April 6, the USS Emmons was struck by five kamikaze planes. Crippled and ablaze, her crew of 245 men lost 60 souls. 77 men were wounded, including Armand. When they were ordered to abandon ship, he jumped into the sea...with no life-vest. He was later rescued by a small boat, with burns to his arms and face. Armand was taken to a hospital ship, then recuperated in Guam before coming home to the U.S.

Armand was discharged from the Navy on December 7, 1946, and was awarded a Purple Heart, WWII Victory Medal, a Good Conduct Medal and numerous other commendations for his service.



While he was here, Armand visits fellow WWII veteran, Del Dubriel.

**The Veterans Coffee House meets each 2nd Tuesday in the dining room. All veterans are welcome.
A MORE DETAILED ARTICLE IS AVAILABLE AT THE VET BOARD NEAR THE DINING ROOM**

Picnic Date with Mom



What might feel like a loss to us may be a gift to many others.

This is "Goodbye and Welcome" by artist Charles Santoso.

Matulaitis resident Gerry Messier spent a sunny Sunday afternoon with daughters Liz and Valerie, granddaughter Catherine and great grandchildren Lucas, Matthew and Lexi...at the Brooklyn cemetery!

They were having a "picnic date" with Barbara Messier; wife of 58 years, mother and grandmother. Barbara passed unexpectedly in February.

What a great way to be close and "make it seem more real to him [Dad]", explained Liz.



Wedded Bliss



Residents Joseph and Dolores Mercik celebrated their 71st Anniversary with a party in the D lounge!

Joseph and Dolores were married on August 21, 1948 at St. Mary Church in Putnam.

Congratulations!

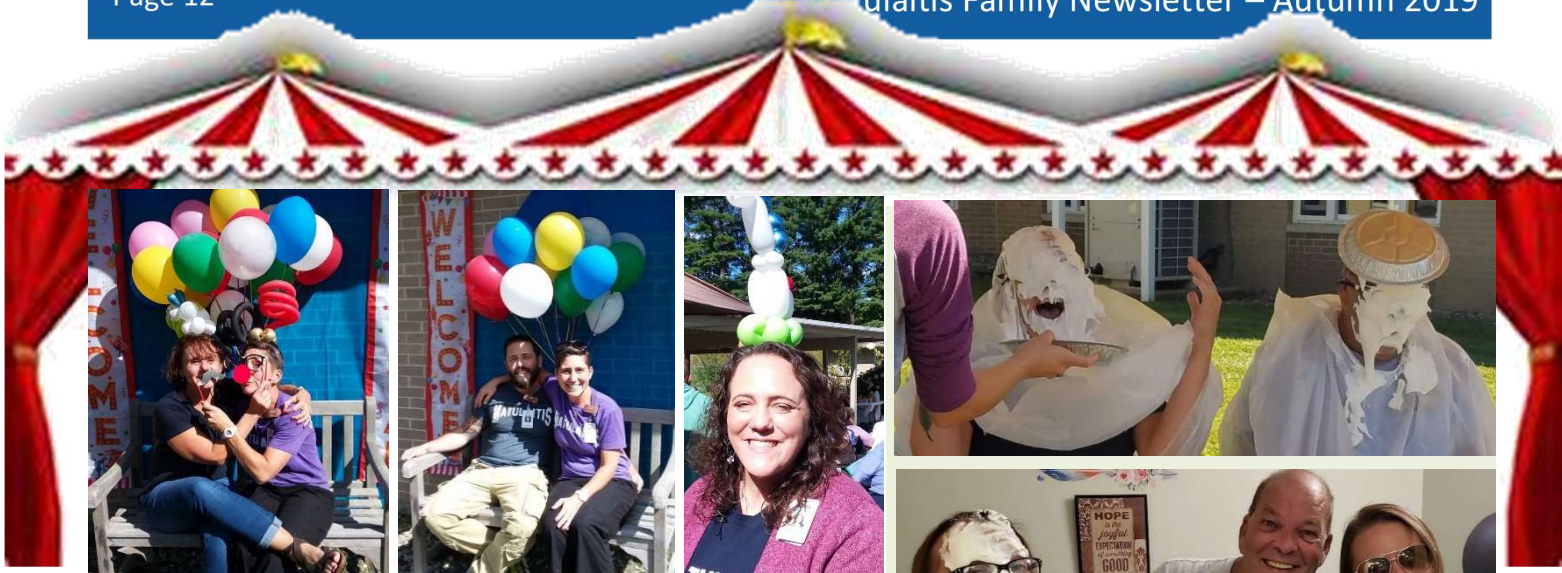
At left they celebrate with (l-r) granddaughter Hollis with Golden retriever, Bella. Daughter Deb and son-in-law Kevin with golden doodle, Chanel. Seated are Joseph and Dolores.



Residents Claire and George Lajeunesse celebrated their 70th Anniversary with a family party!

Claire and George were married on August 6, 1949 at St. Mary in Putnam.

Congratulations!



The September 13 carnival also featured lawn games with prizes, carnival music and, of course, an employee “pie in the face”! Above (l-r) Carolyn Wells and Sue Porter make themselves at home in the photo booth! Jeff & Sue Porter and Director of Spiritual Care Olivia Chalifoux in her balloon hat!

**DURING AND AFTER PHOTOS OF
PIE-IN-THE-FACE VICTIMS**

*Heather Gagne, Dan Gagne
and Chrissy Faucher.*



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You
know you're
getting old
when people
start telling
you how
young you
look!



*In Loving
Memory*

To those we lost this summer

- Marjorie Kukla
- Charles Henriksen
- Russell Perkins
- Anita Rita Palazzo
- George Henry
- Charles Knous 
- Lois Mayer
- Celina Stafford
- Mary Ann Deparasis
- Barbara Langelier
- Victoria Grandelski
- Ralph Carlson 
- Robert Shaevitz
- Jean Kerr
- Robert Blain 

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