



PARKER PRESS



Winter 2017

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Virtual Dementia Tour for First Responders

Contributed by Fern Marder

Sometimes, to understand what someone is going through, we have to literally step into their shoes, which is the ideology behind the Virtual Dementia Tour®. The VDT is a scientifically proven method of building a greater understanding of dementia using sensory tools and instruction licensed by Second Wind Dreams, which was created by P.K. Beville, PhD, an award-winning geriatric psychologist. Marcy Salzberg, Director of Social Work and Dementia Care Services at Parker, found the tour to be of great value and incorporated it into Dementia Care Program education initiatives.

Concurrently, Natalie Macaro, director of Parker Adult Day Center, and social workers Samara Elias and Katie Ciarelli, were invited by the Middlesex County Prosecutor's office to present at the Elder Abuse and Exploitation Conference. Afterwards, the Parker group described VDT and offered the experience to the Prosecutor's Office. Parker also contacted the Piscataway and Woodbridge police departments, and all three organizations sent representatives to Parker's first tour for non-employees.

After a short discussion on dementia, the visitors

donned special equipment to experience the tour. "Each participant is given a series of everyday tasks to perform, such as folding laundry

and clearing a table of dinner settings," Katie Ciarelli explains. The lighting and eyeglasses impede vision, the headphones restrict hearing and their feet hurt from the inserts. All the discomforts impact their ability to understand and comply with the list of requested tasks.

Lieutenant Anthony Crisafulli described the frustration that he felt with his inability to remember instructions during the tour. He noted that, "It was the most insightful five minutes I've ever had. It was eye-opening to see what it's like to live in someone else's shoes."

To read the full blog post, visit <http://www.franciseparker.com/blog/december-2016/parker-offers-virtual-dementia-tour-to-first-respo>



First responders gained insights to better assist the cognitively impaired

A Resident and a Role Model

Contributed by Lyndsey Lotario

Dorothy Tomkins, a Resident of PARKER at Stonegate assisted living residence, knows more than most of us about long term care. As a teenager living in New Brunswick, Dorothy began volunteering in St. Peter's Hospital. Her friends volunteered there as well, to fulfill a school requirement, but Dorothy did so for the joy of helping others. The hospital volunteering experience led to a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) training course at St. Peter's Hospital. Dorothy accepted a job at PARKER at Landing Lane, in New Brunswick, as an overnight CNA. The Parker job experience led to a career as a home health aide in New Jersey and Florida.

Some of the fondest memories of Dorothy's career involved sharing "simple pleasures" with the elders she cared for: listening to big band music together, watching favorite television shows, and enjoying all the things that brought smiles to their faces.

In 2014, Dorothy became a PARKER at Stonegate Resident and has become thoroughly integrated

into the community; she particularly enjoys the shopping expeditions, game activities, and arts programs. She also gives back to the Stonegate community by mentoring new Residents, giving

tours, and helping them to feel at home. Additionally, Dorothy volunteers at PARKER at River Road in Piscataway, where she visits with the elders, plays cards, and reminisces with them as they look at family photos.

"Dorothy is one of the most compassionate and patient volunteers I ever met," said Melissa Murray, senior recreation coordinator at PARKER at River Road. "Her devotion to those who need a little help rarely goes unnoticed. Her volunteering at PARKER River Road may bring her joy but it also brings joy, happiness and comfort to all those she comes in contact with."



Dorothy Tomkins and Lyndsey Lotario

CEO's Message: Ageism - Moving the Conversation Forward



Roberto Muñoz, President and CEO, "tackling ageism" at the LeadingAge national convention in Indianapolis

While at the LeadingAge national conference, I stopped by the "Tackling Ageism" kiosk in the heart of downtown Indianapolis. LeadingAge, our national association whose members are committed to helping older adults live rich, purposeful lives, is moving the Ageism conversation forward in an effort to create a society unbiased about growing older – a society that embraces age differences and acknowledges that aging is simply a part of life's journey.

They've given us a very simple pledge to help change the conversation about aging....

"I promise to be conscious of what I say and do and how it influences others' perception of older adults."

There are so many opportunities for aging services professionals to move this discussion out into our broader circle of influence, into the spaces and places it needs to be – in businesses, government agencies, homes, workplaces, universities, and social media.

It can be as simple as having the pledge printed on a few business cards to pass out, or you might share the information through your social media accounts. However and wherever conversations take place (Starbucks anyone?) is where we need to be!

To read the full blog post, visit <http://www.franciseparker.com/blog/november-2016/ageism-moving-the-conversation-forward>



Kailin Bouse



James Dellapa



Simone McCrawford



Tina Persico

Parker Pride

Kailin Bouse has been promoted to manager of administrative and volunteer services at Parker. She was previously the assistant marketing manager at Parker.

Sal Cioffi was promoted to senior manager of maintenance at Parker. Previously he was the manager of plant operations and environmental services at PARKER at Monroe.

James Dellapa is the new chief information officer for Parker. He was formerly the vice president of implementation services for Jersey Technology Partners, in East Brunswick, NJ.

Gina Kirchoff is the new administrator of PARKER at River Road. She was formerly the administrator of Voorhees Care & Rehabilitation Center, in Voorhees, NJ.

Simone McCrawford is the new human resources manager of PARKER at McCarrick. She was previously the regional human resources manager for Toys"R"Us.

Nigel Moxie is the new neighborhood guide at the Rose and White Willows small homes of PARKER at Monroe. He started his career as a CNA and has more than 10 years of experience in healthcare management.

Tina Persico is the new environmental services manager at PARKER at Landing Lane, Stonegate and River Road. She was previously the assistant director of hospitality services for Crothall Health Care, in Englewood, NJ.

Karen Sasse is Parker's new Senior Director of Quality. She was formerly the Director of Global Quality Services for Tiffany & Co. Jewelers.



Sal Cioffi



Gina Kirchoff



Nigel Moxie



Karen Sasse

Volunteerism Fills Emotional Needs

Contributed by Margaret Fourounjian

Volunteerism is a huge part of Parker culture which extends to our Residents, Participants and employees. Many Residents and Participants in Parker's homes and programs have found a variety of ways to benefit society.

PARKER at McCarrick Residents formed the "Living with a Purpose Club" two years ago. This season, the club has just finished collecting gifts for Samaritan's Purse (Operation Christmas Child), and is collecting donations for a 50/50 raffle to benefit Camp No Limits, which helps young people and their families with limb loss.

Parker Adult Day Center Social Program formed a choir with the purpose of entertaining people who live in our nursing homes. The choir members agreed that it was worth all their hard work to see nursing home Residents smile during their performances.

Many of PARKER at Stonegate assisted living Residents help out fine local charities such as Elijah's Promise and the local food bank throughout the year by making box lunches for the hungry. The Stonegate Knitting Club partners with the Joan Schick Blanket Project to provide baby blankets to infants in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at St. Peter's Hospital in New Brunswick.

PARKER at River Road Resident Dr. Michael Wallach volunteers his time as a lecturer on a variety of topics for Residents and the public. His 2016 monthly series, Hidden History, was a great success and a new series, Armchair Explorations, begins in January. Call 732-902-4200 for more details.



Symbol indicates blog posts, videos and other expanded content to be found online

Flowers of Appreciation

Contributed by Harry Glazer

A bouquet of flowers can signify someone's deeply felt gratitude, to an organization that exceeded her expectations.

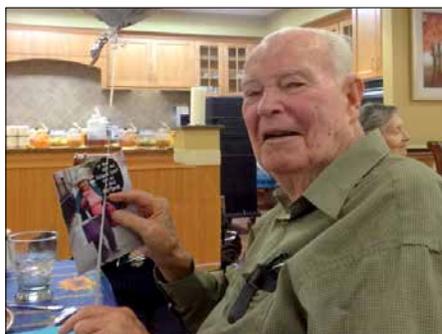
Gustav Bruns was a long-time Somerville, NJ resident who worked as an accountant for RCA General Electric. After he retired he moved, with his wife, to Lavallette on the Jersey Shore.

Gustav reached a point where he needed increased medical care and assistance with activities of daily life. In July 2015, he moved into the PARKER at Monroe long-term living community.

For Gustav's birthday, his daughter Eileen left work early and rushed to Parker with a cake, candles, and a balloon because she was worried that her father would not get much attention on his birthday. She arrived to find him surrounded by smiling faces and ready to enjoy a large birthday cake with his name on it. Gustav was very happy with the attention, and Eileen was relieved to see that he had found such a caring community.

Although Gustav died in September 2016, his family was deeply touched by all the care, concern, and love Gustav received at Parker. So on Gustav's birthday, October 26th, Eileen sent a lovely bouquet of flowers to his Golden Oaks neighborhood, with this message:

"I couldn't let the day go by without acknowledging all of you and your wonderful care. And also thinking of him and how much we all miss him. You are all so special and we will be eternally grateful to you."



Gustav Bruns' birthday celebration was a heartwarming surprise for both Gustav and his daughter, Eileen

Parker Resident Receives APA Lifetime Achievement Award

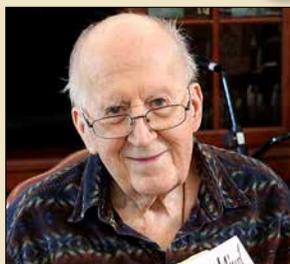
Contributed by Fern Marder

Lifetime Achievement Awards are rare and precious – they are presented to just a few luminaries, and only after decades of dedicated and valuable service in their fields. So, when one of their own was bestowed with such a rare honor, the Residents and staff of Evergreen Way in PARKER at River Road threw a party to celebrate the achievement.

Duane M. Rumbaugh, PhD is a Resident of Evergreen Way and an internationally known comparative psychologist who studied the nature of learning and language processes of primates in relation to their brain development. Dr. Rumbaugh was honored at the annual convention of the American Psychological Association (APA) with a Lifetime Achievement Award. A symposium at the convention was dedicated to his long-lasting and distinguished theoretical and empirical contributions to research in experimental psychology.

A few weeks after the APA convention, staff and Residents of Evergreen Way threw a party for Duane to celebrate his accomplishments. His friends and neighbors gushed about how proud they were of him and how impressed they were by his life's accomplishments.

When asked how he felt about the award, Dr. Rumbaugh responded with a shy smile, "The award does not belong solely to me – it belongs to the many colleagues who assisted me with projects and the organizations that funded our important work. It was fortuitous that computer technology had evolved, which facilitated working with our monkeys and apes. I am truly humbled by the recognition of the value of my life's work."



Dr. Duane Rumbaugh

Parker Collaborates with Piscataway Elks for Resident Veterans

Contributed by Daniel Carr

On Veterans' Day, Parker and the Piscataway Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks #2414 hosted two meaningful ceremonies which honored the 35 veterans who live in our homes.



Parker was proud to honor the 35 veterans who live in our homes for their service to our country

Each celebration began with a march of a color guard, complete with an American flag and a POW flag, followed by a speech on the importance of appreciating those who have fought for our freedom. The first commemoration occurred at PARKER at River Road, followed by a similar event in PARKER at Landing Lane. After each ceremony there were large flag-decorated cakes and refreshments for all to enjoy.

One of the Parker Residents who received the certificate of appreciation and thank you note was Pat Daley, a former Army nurse 2nd lieutenant at Fort Jay on Governor's Island in the late 1950s. Pat has lived at PARKER at Landing Lane since October 2015. She remarked that the Veteran's Day event was "lovely" and that she never expected anything like it. She greatly appreciated the activity and the sentiment behind it.

This event came to fruition because of the passion and hard work of many individuals. Joe Mazurek, lead cook at PARKER at River Road and a former exalted ruler of Elks Lodge #2262 in Hamilton initiated and organized the Elks' involvement in our Veterans' Day events. Parker is proud to raise the visibility and awareness of our Residents who have dedicated their lives to serving our country.



PARKER

1421 River Road
Piscataway, NJ 08854

Parker Receives Two Prestigious LeadingAge Awards



Congratulations to Roberto Muñiz, President and CEO, and Sonam Patel, Neighborhood Guide at PARKER at Monroe! Mr. Muñiz received the LeadingAge "Excellence in Leadership" award and Ms. Patel received the LeadingAge "Professional Advancement" award.

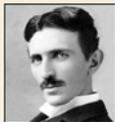


Armchair Explorations with Dr. Michael Wallach

Every lecture is a quest for knowledge



Join Dr. Michael Wallach, scientist, historian and cultural observer for a series of lectures on a variety of topics:



- The Virtual Choir
- The History of Divorce
- Nicola Tesla, Forgotten Genius
- The Smithsonian Institution
- The Unbreakable Code of the Navajo Code Talkers

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Volunteer Profile: Alvin Blumenfeld



An interview with volunteer Alvin Blumfeld by Harry Glazer

Q: What is your volunteer role at Parker?

A: I serve as the salesperson in the Country Store in PARKER at the Pavilion, Highland Park, for four hours every Wednesday. On Thursdays, I help out at PARKER at Monroe with filing and other administrative tasks. I also bring elders from their *Small Home* to the Health and Wellness Center and back again.

Q: When did you start volunteering at Parker?

A: I've been volunteering since January 2012 in the Country Store and since April 2016 at PARKER at Monroe.

Q: What inspired you to volunteer at Parker?

A: My wife works in the Child Development Center, which is the child daycare program based in the Pavilion in Highland Park. It's a bonus to drive in with her and help out by giving back to the community.



Alvin Blumenfeld, 86, is a retired operations manager for an inventory company. He lives with his wife in Monroe Township.

"Don't let his humble nature fool you – Alvin is one of our most dedicated volunteers. His background in accounting has helped us so much. With Alvin doing the books for the Country Store, we have a much better sense of the income and expenses. I wish every volunteer was as sharp and easy going as Alvin," said Catherine Martino, former senior manager of volunteer services and now assistant administrator of PARKER at Stonegate assisted living residence.

Home & Community Services
Adult Day Center
Center for Healthy Aging
Rehabilitation Services
Highland Park, NJ

PARKER at McCarrick
Post-Acute Rehabilitation
Nursing Care Residence
Somerset, NJ

PARKER at Stonegate
Assisted Living Residence
Highland Park, NJ

PARKER at Monroe
Long-Term Living
Community
and Memory Care
Monroe Township, NJ

PARKER at River Road
Nursing Care Residence
and Memory Care
Piscataway, NJ

PARKER at Landing Lane
Nursing Care Residence
New Brunswick, NJ