



Meet the Residents



Bob and Renee Serveiss

by Rev. Faye Coddling

Bob and Renee Serveiss are well known at Lake Anne Fellowship House. They have been involved in numerous projects over the years—everything from weeding, to serving on the residents’ council, to participating in craft club activities. They are noted for their care and concern for their neighbors at Lake Anne. Renee remembers a time she and Bob were so busy with their work at Lake Anne that Dr. John Scherzer, the founder of Fellowship Square, told her to “take time to smell the roses!”

Both Bob and Renee experienced World War II, but from opposite sides of the Atlantic. Drafted in 1943 and sent first to an airplane mechanics’ school, Bob later served as an instructor in the Aerial Gunnery School at Buckingham Airfield, Fort Myers, FL. Bob volunteered for

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Fellowship Square Participates in Combined Federal Campaign

Fellowship Square had a unique opportunity to participate in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) with the United States Postal Service. The Northern Virginia Branch of the USPS invited a representative of Fellowship Square to be at six of its CFC kick-off meetings. Community Outreach Coordinator Faye Coddling and Fellowship Square Vice President Charles Wortman told the story of Fellowship Square and described the needs of its residents to over 400 postal workers. Although many of those workers are involved in the delivery of mail to our Fellowship Houses, they were unaware until the kick-off meetings of the varied resources that Fellowship Square provides for its residents. Faye and Charles also thanked the postal employees for their work, pointing out that their daily visits with the mail bring joy to our residents. Fellowship Square was chosen to participate in the postal service kick-off as part of the Northern Virginia USPS Combined Federal Campaign emphasis this year on local charitable organizations.



Jim Sloan, head of the USPS Office for the Northern Virginia District CFC, speaks at a kick-off meeting.

CFC’s mission is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, cost efficient, and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all. Remember to designate all or a portion of your CFC gift this year to Fellowship Square at number 84971!



84971

House News

Hunters Woods Fellowship House Sends “Ambassadors” to Residents Needing Language Help

Hunters Woods Fellowship House is unique among the Fellowship Square houses for the wide diversity of its residents’ national origins. In order to help recently immigrated residents in overcoming language difficulties, foreign-born residents who are proficient in English as well as their native language volunteer their time and talents as “Hunters Woods Ambassadors.” An Ambassador partners with any resident of the same national origin who has asked for language assistance. With the Ambassador serving as interpreter and general go-between, the resident is able to fill out forms, perform everyday errands, communicate with service providers, and widen his or her circle of friends to include residents of other national origins. Among the corps of Ambassadors are residents who speak Chinese (both Mandarin and Cantonese), Vietnamese, Korean, Spanish, Russian, and Farsi.



(left to right) Social Services Coordinator Chandis Parris meets with Aoda Zhu and Ambassador Yaoming Hsiao.

Early this summer, Ambassador Yaoming Hsiao learned that resident Aoda Zhu was having a hard time paying medical bills because he lacked health insurance. Mr. Hsiao alerted Social Services Coordinator Chandis Parris of Mr. Zhu’s need. Ms. Parris and Mr. Zhu met to discuss the steps that had to be taken, with Mr. Hsiao translating the conversation. Ms. Parris then contacted Fairfax

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**Mark the date
for the next FSF
Annual Meeting**

April 18, 2009
9am-Noon

House News, Hunters Woods “Ambassadors”

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County’s human services office in Reston and through that office obtained temporary Medicaid assistance for Mr. Zhu. By summer’s end, Mr. Zhu had received his Medicaid enrollment card and is now able to receive permanent health insurance benefits. ■



Mr. Zhu shows his Medicaid card.

Lake Anne Fellowship House Hosts a Presentation on Depression

We’ve all heard the phrase “information is power,” but the staff of Lake Anne Fellowship House also believes that “information can be healing” to both body and mind. In September, The Medical Team, Inc., a home-based health care company headquartered in Reston, VA, gave residents a free luncheon followed by the presentation, “Aging Is Not for Sissies.” More than 65 residents heard a registered nurse describe depression and suggest avenues to healing. Next month a Fairfax Area Agency on Aging representative will hold an open discussion for Lake Anne Residents on how to find a way through the health insurance maze. ■

Largo Landing Fellowship House Resident Earns High School Diploma



Largo Landing Fellowship House resident Frances Yancey-Olaifa recently earned her high school diploma at the age of 71. “This is something I wanted to achieve ever since I left school as a young bride to raise a family,” Ms. Olaifa says. She’s now thinking seriously about continuing her education at Prince George’s Community College. ■

Proud resident Frances Yancey-Olaifa



Executive Director Report

James Garrett

Our staff members contribute a lot of time and skill to care for our residents. Whether a staff member maintains and cleans the building, works in the office, or coordinates resident services, we all work together to make sure that we have the very best Fellowship Houses for people to live in.

Individual volunteers, and volunteers from businesses and religious organizations, arrange for social activities, offer continuing education opportunities, and lend their expertise to help residents solve life’s common problems. Donors regularly provide financial gifts that pay for the salaries of the chaplain and the community outreach coordinator. Donated funds are also used to supplement the budgets of our residents, who at times can use a bit of extra help to make it through the end of the month.

At a time of uncertainty in the financial world, I see the expenses of our residents increasing. Gasoline, food, drugstore items, clothing—everything costs more for everybody these days. But what makes life uncertain for us makes life more uncomfortable, if not critical, for people with limited financial resources. Those of our residents who were living close to the margin are now struggling to make ends meet. Those who are presently in need of a little monetary aid will soon be in need of much more. We have already been notified that some of our local assistance programs will not be providing so much support as they have given in the past. The needs of our surrounding communities have grown, thus further limiting currently available resources.

That is why we—staff, individual volunteers, volunteers from businesses and religious organizations, and donors—must come together to work on behalf of Fellowship Square’s residents. Without such gifts of time, skills, and funds we will not be able to sustain the services that now make such a difference in the quality of our residents’ lives. ■



Renovations, Repairs, and Replacements at the Fellowship Houses

- Largo Landing got a new 15-ton heating and air conditioning unit to service the building's common areas, and a new roof between the apartment section and the social hall.



- Hunters Woods' interior renovations included new carpeting in the hallways and elevator lobbies, and a fresh coat of paint for every apartment's main door. Outside repairs were made to the main entrance, the patio, the loading dock, and the sidewalks.



- Lake Ridge, having refurbished the first floor kitchens last year, moved on to the second floor this year. Every kitchen on that floor got a new countertop, new cabinets—easier to open than the original ones—and a new regulation sized stove with hood. At one floor per year, the kitchen project will continue until 2014.



- Lake Anne is currently remodeling the social hall. This will include new furniture, lighting and a recently donated large screen TV. Future plans also include remodeling the lobby area and front office. ■



Fire Department Exercise and Drill at Lake Ridge Fellowship House

Three companies of the Prince William County Fire and Rescue Department conducted a combined training exercise and fire drill at Lake Ridge Fellowship House in September. The firefighters came with full equipment, including engines, ladder trucks, and ambulances. Emergency personnel tested fire hydrants, hoses, and rescue gear. Teams of firefighters then toured the House's interior to familiarize themselves with its layout and key locations. Following the exercise and drill, Captain Michael Gesling thanked the staff and residents for their cooperation and called the event "productive."



fire engine

getting to the top

ladder truck

Summer's End Carnival at Lake Ridge Fellowship House

Lake Ridge Fellowship House held an indoor carnival in August to celebrate the end of summer. Everyone enjoyed the ice cream and sundaes "fixings" donated by Humana, along with plenty of popcorn and peanuts. "Rainbow" the clown—representing Kings Klowns, a group of volunteers from local churches—came to paint faces. Residents and staff members tended the concession stand and the game booths. The horse racing game proved to be such a success that the players continued even after the carnival had ended. Residents and their families had such a good time that they asked for another carnival next year. ■



Rainbow the clown

Are You Singing the Stock Blues? Here's an Option!

by Alice Benson

Mrs. Fellowship Square, an 88-year-old widow, loves her namesake organization and wants to increase her income. She has some stocks that aren't paying any dividends. In spite of their having recently lost value, they are still appreciated from the price the Squares paid for them many years ago. If she sells the stocks, though, she will incur capital gains. *What to do?* she wonders anxiously.

In early October, Mrs. Square establishes a \$25,000 charitable gift annuity with stocks originally purchased for \$10,000. She will now receive \$2,450 a year in additional income, meeting one of her original goals, and \$764 of this will be tax free. Her partial bypass of capital gains may save her \$1,288. She can also receive a \$14,303 tax deduction this year.

While Mrs. Square's annuity rate of 9.8% is based on her age, with the other tax benefits the rate is equivalent to 13.3%. Mrs. Square is feeling pretty pleased with what she has accomplished, and she knows her late husband would have been proud of her. When the charitable gift annuity terminates upon her death, the organization she loves, Fellowship Square, will receive whatever remains of the principal. Her legacy will help Fellowship Square keep on providing both elderly and disabled people with affordable independent housing.

For more information, call Faye Coddling at 703-471-5370. ■

Bob and Renee Serveiss, *Continued from page 1*

combat as a B-25 engineer gunner, ending up in Okinawa just as final preparations were being made for the allied invasion of Japan. "God Bless Harry Truman," Bob says, for giving the order to drop "the bomb" that ended the war and made the invasion unnecessary.

Renee was born on a farm in San Miniato, near Florence, Italy, where she was raised with her sister and brother. German Army units occupied the area. One day, the German commander ordered all people in

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Opportunities to Donate a Needed Service or Item

Looking for the perfect Christmas gift? Consider giving a gift to one of our Houses. Contact the House Administrator and we will gladly acknowledge your thoughtful gift to those you request. It's a great way to help the elderly and disabled and bring meaning to your own celebration of the season.

Hunters Woods

Computers for classroom use
Carts for laundry room
Walkers
Contributions for 36" or 42" flat screen TV
Wii Game System and Wii Fit Game
Exercise room equipment, such as stationary bicycles
DVD movies
Contact Luis Conde-Lopez
lfc@unidial.com or
703-620-4450

Lake Anne

Digital camera
Flat of pansies and or mums for winter beds
Flower pots and plants for patio
Rebuilding of small back garden
Computer training for residents
Wii Game System and games
Drivers for longer distance medical appointments
Contact Louneta Beckles
Louneta@aol.com or
703-471-6474

Largo Landing

Volunteer to teach computers
New Bingo machine
Wii Game System and Wii Fit Game
Contact David Digby
l1fh1@comcast.net or
301-249-2100

Lake Ridge

Flats of pansies and/or mums for winter beds
Paper and plastic serving products for parties (dishes, utensils, napkins, tablecloths)
Drivers for longer distance medical appointments
Contributions for big screen TV
Contributions for Wii Game System and games
Resident computer lab items (printer, copy paper, ink)
Volunteers for "Friendly Visitor" program (making home visits, taking to lunch, running errands, shopping for groceries)
Volunteers and contributions for tree trimming parties on each floor in December (refreshments, new ornaments and lights)
Volunteers for the Christmas party (refreshments, entertainment, serving and clean-up, door prizes)
Contact Susan Bickell
susan.bickell@lakeridgefellowshiphouse.org or
703-494-5537

YOU'RE INVITED

Open House and Rededication Lake Anne Fellowship House

The Board and Staff of Fellowship Square invite you to join us for an Open House and Rededication of our Lobby and Resident Community Room

Monday January 26, 2009
5:30pm to 7:00pm
Lake Anne Fellowship House
11450 North Shore Drive
Reston, VA 20190

Featured Events

Reception
Rededication Service
Tour of the renovated facility

Bob and Renee Serveiss, *Continued from page 3*

the town to gather in the local church. A German soldier told Renee's father not to send his family, so they hid in a bomb shelter they had made on the farm. The troops blew up the church, an act that resulted in many injuries and deaths among the townspeople. Renee says that the event was depicted in the movie, "The Night of the Shooting Stars." After the war, Renee immigrated to New York City to live with her aunt.

Bob found a postwar job with Addressograph-Multigraph Corporation, manufacturer of business machines. He eventually became service manager

of the Queens branch and worked there for 30 years.

Renee and Bob met in New York City and were married on August 30, 1952. Until the birth of their son, Renee was an assistant dress designer in the shop of the noted designer, Oleg Cassini. She recalls with some pride assisting with the creation of Cassini's wardrobe for Jacqueline Kennedy.

The couple's son, Victor, was born in 1957. Now a resident of Vienna, VA, he is an environmental scientist at the Environmental Protection Agency.

After Victor had settled in the Washington, DC area, Bob

and Renee began to look for affordable housing in the same location. Lake Anne Fellowship House was on a recommended list of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), and once they had visited the House they decided that they wanted to live there.

When not helping at Lake Anne, Bob and Renee enjoy the company of granddaughters Kelsey, 12, a dancer and playwright; Alyssa, 10, an all-star soccer player; and Emily, 8, who loves both dancing and sports. ■

