



Fellowship Square

50 Years of Housing and Hope

Prime Times

Volume 27, Number 2

Summer 2012

Meet the Residents



Mario and Selma Carvajal

by Rev. Faye Coddling

When you meet this active couple, you'd never guess that they're both nearing 80 years old. Mario has written a paper on energy and work, using his physics background, and he's seeking a publisher. Selma teaches art and knitting to fellow residents of Hunters Woods as well as creating her own beautiful crafts and paintings. Both continue to be engaged with their 6 children and 10 grandchildren. The Carvajals say that retirement is a very busy time for them.

Both are originally from Ecuador, though they did not know each other while growing up. Mario went to Chicago as a young man to work and became friends with Selma's brother. Selma was introduced to Mario while she was on vacation to the United States after graduation. Married in Chicago, the Carvajals have fond memories of the city. Mario had a job at Western Electric, while Selma raised the children and worked at Marshall Field's when she could.

Laid off from his job, Mario moved the family first to Michigan and then to Elkhart, IN. Elkhart proved to be an important place for both of their careers. Mario found a marketing position at Miles

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News From the Fellowship Houses



AT&T and Bechtel treat Lake Anne residents to a box lunch and an ice cream social.



Largo Landing residents relax at a Father's Day cookout.



Lake Ridge residents and their families celebrate Father's Day.



Hunters Woods residents observe Father's Day and Russian World War II Victory Day.



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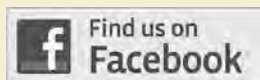
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Design: D Banzon Design



Annual Meeting Highlights

Corporate members, staff, and invited guests met to “celebrate community” at this year’s annual meeting, held on April 21 at Hunters Woods Fellowship House. In his opening devotion, Chaplain David Berg said that God had called us into relationship with one another, to age gracefully within a communal setting.



Sharon Lloyd-O'Connor

Keynote speaker Sharon Lloyd-O'Connor, of the Loudoun County Department of Family Services, described the Eden Alternative: a philosophy and program developed by eldercare expert Dr. Bill Thomas that offers alternatives to the loneliness, helplessness, and boredom often felt by residents of long term care facilities.

According to Ms. Lloyd-O'Connor, having the companionship of other people (including children) and of other living things (including plants and animals) counteracts loneliness; being able to care for others counteracts helplessness; and experiencing variety and spontaneity in daily life counteracts boredom. She urged the corporate members and staff to keep on viewing the Fellowship Houses as elder-centered communities, using the Eden Alternative Principles as guidelines.



Lutheran Lay Fellowship President Bob Sargeant presents Fellowship Square with an \$800 donation from the LLF membership.

New Executive Director Jana Broughton formally introduced herself to the corporate membership. A firm believer in the Eden Alternative Principles, Jana held up the Fellowship Houses as models of communal living.

Jana then presented this year’s awards, announcing AOL, Inc. as the corporate donor of the year.



Sara Leonard and Jorn Dalboe, donors of the year



Rev. Phil Carl accepts the congregation of the year award for Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, Reston, VA.



Steve and Walter Belter receive the Legacy Award for a gift from the Margaret Seaton Belter estate.

In the business session conducted by President Charles R. Wortman, corporate members approved by-law changes, the corporate member class of 2015, and a slate of candidates for the Board of Directors. Members also thanked Capital Cuisine for serving a continental breakfast prior to the meeting, and Hunters Woods resident Sousanna Kolker for sharing her talent as a virtuoso pianist. ■



Recipients of the Volunteer of the Year Award are Eva Serina (Hunters Woods); and shown with their respective House Administrator, are Cornease Cooper (Largo Landing), with David Digby; Elizabeth O'Leary-Hayes (Lake Ridge), with Susan Bickell; and at right, Anab M. Ali (Lake Anne), with Louneta Beckles and Resident Service Coordinator May Al-Barzinji.



Recipients of the Fellowship Square Employee Recognition Award are Rosa Tjeda (homemaker aide, Hunters Woods); Cristian Mata (housekeeping, Lake Anne), with Louneta Beckles; and Sonia Ellis (assistant administrator, Lake Ridge), with Susan Bickell. Not pictured: David Harvin (maintenance, Largo Landing)

At left, President Charles R. Wortman

From the Executive Director



Jana Broughton

Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy. (Proverbs 31:9)

I have come to understand that charity is not without judgment. In my short tenure at Fellowship Square, I have already fielded questions about our policies on admitting “non-Americans” as Fellowship House residents; about our background check of financials for those individuals; and about the percentage of “non-citizens” that we take in. Although such questions trouble me, I know why they are being asked.

The bureaucratic answer is fairly simple. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds public housing for eligible low-income families, and for eligible low-income elderly persons and persons with disabilities. Therefore, HUD sets down the rules for admission to HUD-subsidized rental facilities such as our Fellowship Houses. We, the administrators, cannot base our selection of an individual for admission into a Fellowship House on any other basis than the HUD-developed waiting list containing the name of that applicant.

The difficult answer, however, relates to why such questions are being asked in the first place.

I understand the frustration of Americans who are seeking work, assistance, and even shelter. But when I contemplate their situation and seek guidance in my heart about what is right and good, I come back to the Bible and to the original premise on which our country was founded. We are the immigrant nation. We are the world’s melting pot. Our founding fathers based the Bill of Rights and our country’s policies on Christian beliefs.

Benevolence and caring for the sick, the tired, and the poor are part of the doctrine that we were founded upon.

When we review social policy concerns of the past two centuries, we find debates over immigration policy and how the needs of the “immigrant poor” were to be dealt with. Every one of us can trace our ancestors back to the date of immigration to this country. When we probe even more deeply into the difficult question of “why,” we may find the real reason for concern to be that the newest generations of immigrants are not like “us”—meaning that they are not Euro-Anglo Christians. They are African, Asian, Hispanic, Middle Eastern, and Indian. They bring with them new religions, cultures, and beliefs; and they represent something far different from what we have come to know about who we think we are as a nation. Is this perhaps why I am asked such questions? Or is it the fact that we think they are coming here to take advantage of our graciousness and our country’s benevolence? Are we judging them for asking for assistance from us while not accepting and adopting our norms? Again, if you go back into history, you will see similar discussions in open dialogue about our own ancestors being “judged” for not conforming to our expected norms.

The answer is simple: “. . . Love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.” (John 13:34) It is the example that we as a country were founded upon, yet it is perhaps the most difficult example to practice. The universal act of kindness and love for another: so simple and yet so profound. ■

A Message from Our Chaplain

Dear Friends of Fellowship Square,



After almost 18 years of service as Chaplain to the 800 residents of our Fellowship Houses, I am leaving Fellowship Square at the end of July to pursue new areas of ministry closer to my home in Annapolis, MD.

Yes, I will keep serving as pastor of Glen Lutheran Church, Glen Burnie, MD. I will also continue as a Spiritual Care Team member at Anne Arundel Medical Center, Annapolis. The new areas of ministry will open for me in September, when I begin work as Supervisor of Clinical Pastoral Education for two hospital systems on Maryland’s Eastern Shore. The complementary aspects of religion and medicine both excite and challenge me. I believe that God is calling me now—even as my 68th birthday approaches—to expand and deepen clinical pastoral education in that part of Maryland that I love so much.

My time at Fellowship Square has been full and rich with meaning. I have laughed, cried, and embodied a ministry of dignity,

hope, and compassion with countless numbers of our residents as they faced transitions in the final decades of their lives. I have appreciated the cooperation of the staff at our Fellowship Houses over the years. And my admiration for Executive Director Jana Broughton has only grown since her arrival last February. She has vision, she’s resourceful, and she has a heart for the wellbeing of every Fellowship House resident. I wish her well in her future endeavors.

Thank you all for your faithful support of Fellowship Square’s chaplaincy program—the Wegener Chaplaincy, it’s called, named after the late Pastor Bill Wegener in recognition of his strong advocacy of that program during his lifetime. Thank you all, too, for the prayers that have blessed my ministry at the Fellowship Houses these past 18 years. I’m confident that by the grace of God, whoever succeeds me as Fellowship Square’s chaplain will continue to serve the diverse needs of our residents as they live out their calling in God’s created world.

The Rev. David G. Berg
Chaplain, Fellowship Square Foundation



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Mario and Selma Carjaval, continued from page 1

Laboratories. Selma worked part-time at a beauty shop, practicing her English while creating coiffures. One day a woman approached Selma in a local grocery store, identified herself as Harriet Monteith, a professional artist, and asked if she could draw Selma's face. Though at first hesitant, Selma agreed to the request. She soon found out that Mrs. Monteith was a well known, prize-winning artist. When Mrs. Monteith later offered to give her painting lessons, Selma happily accepted. She continued to study with the artist until Mario's job took the family to Ecuador.

Mario was transferred to Quito to open a market for Miles Laboratories' diagnostic division. Active in the local Roman Catholic parish, Selma gave her church a doll nativity set that she had made. The priest showed her work to some officials of the Organization of American States. They sponsored an exhibit of 40 of Selma's finely crafted dolls.

Mario and Selma stayed in Ecuador even after Miles Laboratories had been bought by another company. The couple eventually decided to follow their children back to the United States. During the four years that they spent at their daughter's home in Ohio, Mario audited physics classics at Kent State University. Following their son-in-law's death, Mario and Selma moved with their daughter to the Washington, DC area to be nearer to other family members.



Mario and Selma came to Hunters Woods Fellowship House four years ago. They praise the staff's caring attitude toward the residents. They admit, with smiles, that their only concern is the lack of room in their apartment for all of Selma's art materials and beautiful creations. With their usual grace, they make space by giving away Selma's paintings, dolls, and knitted items to appreciative family members and friends. ■



Executive Director Jana Broughton accepts a \$1,000 gift to Fellowship Square from John Marshall Bank's Chairman/CEO John R. Maxwell (at left) and Vice President/Reston Branch Manager Michael Otto, at the grand opening of the bank's headquarters in Reston, VA.