



Volunteers of America®
Northern New England

PHH COMMUNITY NEWS

May 2015

Managers Notes –Missy

The patio furniture has arrived just in time for us to enjoy the outdoors. Just a couple of garden reminders: VOA is responsible for planning and paying for all flowers and other enhancements to the garden/grounds. Any plantings or other décor additions to the grounds must be approved by the front office. For safety reasons, residents should not be doing any strenuous yard work or operating lawn/garden equipment.

I want to extend my gratitude to the Next Level Church and Bill & Mario who graced us with serving our community last Saturday. They made a significant dent in the spring cleanup process.

Resident Service Coordinator – Patti Ellsworth

May has finally arrived with all of the signs of warmer and brighter days ahead. Take a moment to enjoy the newness with trees budding and the birds singing. In May, we have the opportunity to reflect on the fond memories of our mothers, what being a mother has meant to you and those we have loved and lost. This months 'Your Future, Your Community' I'd like to do a little something different and hope to see there. Check your calendars for the scheduled time.

May BIRTHDAY LIST

#101 Marjorie Higgins

5/2



Announcements

- ❖ Bi-monthly food distribution for the Let's Eat program will be May 20th after/during coffee hour.
- ❖ PHH 2's community meal is May 21st at noon. We will be having Hamburgers or 2 Hot Dogs. We will post a sign-up sheet for set up and clean up.
- ❖ PHH 1's community meal is Friday May 29th at noon. The meal will be hamburgers or 2 hot dogs cooked on the grill. They will also have Jose Duddy to entertain at 1pm paid for by their fundraiser money. The cost for guests will be \$5.
- ❖ PHH 1's May 23rd Bake & Book Sale at PHHI 9am – 1pm.
- ❖ Mays Memory Café has been scheduled for Thursday the 28th due to the Memorial Day holiday.

Recipe for Happiness

1 Bag of Smiles
2 cups of Sharing
2 lbs of Positivity
1 cup of Self Esteem
½ cup of Good Humor
2 spoonfuls of Simplicity
1 dash of Goodwill
4 drops of Easy-Going
And
1 packet of Life Loving!

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

A tribute to Mary Jane Rose

By Helena Cardin Gannon
(Reprint from the Sun Chronicle)

With Mother's Day approaching, my thoughts turn to my long ago deceased mother. This week also marked the anniversary of her birthday.

I still think of her daily. Today, I want to remember her by thanking her. As a mom and grandmother, I learned that what you learn at a young age becomes the substance and the basis of who you are.

It is thanks to my mother that I appreciate nature with delight of the world around us. With little education, she instilled in us the love of learning. Thanks, Mom up there where you hear us, and to whom I talk to often. Thank you for the gift of reading.

She always took the time to point out what was beautiful and why. "Oh Helena, look at that beautiful red breast of the robin. Watch him". "Helena just look at that gorgeous cardinal!" she would say.

We saw many gold finches. She might say look at the bird in the nest to all of us. Look at the mother feeding the newborn baby birds. There was delight in her voice and she wanted to share it. Look. Look.

That taught me to be aware of the everyday things around us. Thanks, Mom, for appreciation of the intensity and hues of color. I was very young, but you showed me the first signs of spring. Thank you, Ma for showing me how to look for the pussy willows, how to force them and other flowering things to bring spring in. Thanks for pointing out how beautiful the sky was, how to spot clouds and what they meant. Thank you for showing me all those rainbows.

Thank you for showing me the creatures of the forest, the chipmunks, squirrels and the lessons of saving up for winter with their hoarding of nuts. I always associate the rose with her and thank her for endearing me to the beauty of a wild rose.

She remarked on the carpets of violets in the woods and springing up everywhere in the shade, the lovely lily of the valley with its distinctive scent and its eagerness to spread. She was pleased with our bouquets of May Flowers. Rose, as she was known, passed on legends of May Day and the practice of May Baskets. What fun!

While she sewed, I became aware of the textures of the cloth she had chosen and its attributes. Did she really tell me or was I just observing? In any case, I learned.

I also learned telling the truth was a huge thing. She quoted my grandfather on how he did not respect a person who would lie.

Thank you for sharing your creativity and showing me how to embroider with fine needles and "doing it the right way". I was barely in school and she told me how to select the colors, when to embellish and when to stay true to nature.

Thank you for my foundation of faith. Thank you for saying that things will look better in the morning. They do! I loved you.

If you know of any seniors in need of quality, affordable housing, please encourage them to apply with us. Applications are now available on-line at our website www.voanne.org



