ADMINISTRATOR’S CORNER

Thanksgiving has passed and the Christmas decorations are starting to go up. The attention to detail that everyone shows is amazing. Every department has a hand in decorating our facility and it is only with this great teamwork that we are able accomplish this annual feat. So over the next week or two, enjoy the transformation of Linus Oakes into our own Christmas Wonderland.

I am pleased to announce our latest addition to the fabulous Linus Oakes Staff, Jackie Post. Jackie has recently joined us as our new LPN Resident Wellness Assistant. She brings years of nursing experience to her new position and is eager to meet everyone and get acquainted. This is a new position with expanded hours so look for more information to follow.

Lastly, don’t forget all the fun this month. From our annual Coos Bay trip, to Festival of Lights, to the Sugar Plum party, there are many activities in December to enjoy. So check the calendar and the sign-up sheets to plan for your favorites.

I would like to wish everyone an early Merry Christmas and hope everyone has a fantastic December.

~ Mike Ryan, Administrator

TRUDYISM: The spirit of Christmas lives in a childlike heart.

The Elks’ Lodge is hosting the annual kids’ Christmas party. Dressed in their best holiday finery, the little ones are awaiting the arrival of Santa, who seems to be late for the event.

Trudy and Sally, manning the refreshment table, are beginning to get worried. Cecile comes across the room holding the hand of his four year old granddaughter Kylee. He whispers a message to the two ladies and turns to Kylee and says can she stay with Trudy? He needs to leave for a few minutes.

It isn’t long till the man in red appears and takes his place on a chair in the corner. An excited group queue up before him. Kylee is thinking her grandpa is missing all the fun as she waits. Finally it’s her turn to climb on Santa’s lap. “Ho, ho, ho,” Santa laughs. “And what would you like for Christmas?”

Somewhat puzzled, Kylee studies the beard and red hat. “Grandpa, is that you in there?” she says softly.

“What do you think?” Santa chuckles.

“You sound like him, but If you are my grandpa, how did . . . ?” “Santa is really busy this year and he asked me to be his helper. But it will be our secret. All right?” He whispers something else in her ear.

Kylee nods solemnly. “Can I still tell you what I want?” At his nod she leans in and tells him in a whisper, then jumps down and runs back to Trudy.

“Did you tell Santa what you wanted?” Trudy asks.

“Yes, but I can’t tell you. It’s a secret,” Kylee says. “I know another secret. Did you know Santa has helpers? I know someone who is.”

“Who?”

“I can’t say, that’s a secret. When I grow up, I want to be Santa’s helper too. Grandpa says if you keep Santa in your heart, you can be his helper.”

Submitted by
~ By Bonnie and Arvilla

A Friend’s Greeting

I’d like to be the sort of friend you have been to me. I’d like to be the that you’ve been always glad to be. I’d like to mean as much to you each minute of the day. As you have meant, good friend of mine, to me along the way.

I’m wishing at this Christmas time that I could but repay a portion of the gladness that you’ve strewn along my way. And could I have on wish this year, this would only be: I’d like to be the sort of friend that you have been to me.
Bio for Stephanie Miller

Stephanie, a member of the wait staff, began our conversation with “My life is an open book.” And a book could be written detailing her interesting life. But here in a few brief paragraphs are the highlights.

The minute you meet Stephanie, you become aware of the joy she brings to life. She considers herself an optimist, viewing a half filled glass as opposed to half empty. “I have a lot of gratitude for where I am today,” she says. She likes to laugh at herself, stating that her sense of humor got her through some tough times.

Stephanie was born in Pensacola, Florida, home to the Navy Blue Angels. Her dad was a pilot in the Marine Corp. After retiring from the service, he owned an Amoco station, where Stephanie’s first job was pumping gas. In 1989 she got a waitressing job at an Italian restaurant in Pensacola. She married and had two daughters and is blessed with eight grandkids.

In August, 2013, she moved from North Carolina to Roseburg with her kids and lives with the family and a gray cat named Chester. After arriving in Douglas County she was employed at the Windmill Inn and then began working for Linus Oaks in August, 2015. She returned briefly to Georgia to help with a new grandchild, but is back serving up smiles in the dining room.

Some hobbies Stephanie enjoys are horseback riding and shooting pool.

The first thing on Stephanie’s bucket list is to complete dental reconstruction. Jokingly, she says her favorite Christmas song is “All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth.”

Next she misses the coast and needs a trip to Bandon.

Third, she wants to finish school for work in senior services. Present plans include starting a business to assist elderly clients. At UCC she took classes in human services and is working on getting licensed for her new venture, “Stephanie’s Helping Hand.”

~Submitted by Arvilla Newsom

Thoughts while 35,000 feet up:

It is very nice to have a son and daughter-in-law with one on a flying trip because:

• They “run interference” at the airport.
• When one is a military service retiree, he can take you with him to the USO lounge (where the people are friendly and the comfort is superb!).
• You get the first choice of airplane seats.
• They supply the treats & introduce new ones!
• As they talk about their lives, you see reflections of your own, and are grateful all over again!

~Submitted by Joyce Swanson

A Song Was Heard At Christmas

A song was heard at Christmas
To wake the midnight sky:
A saviour's birth, and peace on earth,
And praise to God on high.
The angels sang at Christmas,
With all the hosts above,
And still we sing the newborn King. His glory and his love.

Written by Timothy Dudley-Smith
**BIO for Mark Williamson**

Mark has spent the last 18 years serving up delicious dishes to thankful residents. Before arriving at Linus Oakes, he worked at the Sandpiper (now Elmer’s) along with our own Becky Brigham, who waited tables there before coming to Linus. She encouraged him to apply for the head cook position in our kitchen and he has been here ever since. While many changes have occurred through the years, he says it remains one of the best places to work.

He enjoys the challenges and responsibilities of working with kitchen staff. He and the six cooks he oversees, serve about 120 people each evening. His favorite dish to cook is shrimp scampi. Steaks are a popular request. One highlight of the month is breakfast for dinner featuring eggs, meat and French toast. Friday’s clam chowder is a hit with many diners.

Asked where he learned to cook, Mark said he just came by it naturally. And he loves to cook. After spending hours cooking, he goes home to join his wife in the kitchen.

Born in King County, Washington, Mark moved with his parents to Douglas County when he was a toddler. He attended school in Oakland and then graduated from Sutherlin High School in 1981.

Now he lives in Roseburg. He and his wife Candy have been married for 21 years and have a girl and four boys (one son, Tyler, is part of the kitchen staff). They live with two birds, a cat and a lazy dog (a corgi, blue heeler mix).

His family likes to camp, fish and crab at Bandon, Coos Bay and Charleston. Mark’s hobby is playing cribbage, which he enjoys at break time with residents.

~Submitted by Arvilla Newsom

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The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity!

Submitted by ~Mr. Sam Coomer

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**Funny Letters to Santa Claus**

Dear Santa,  
Please give me a doll this year. I would like her to eat, walk, do my homework, and help me clean my room.  
Thank you, Jenny

Dear Santa,  
Thanks for the race car last year. Can I have another one, only this time one that is faster than my best friend's race car?  
Ricky

Dear Father Christmas,  
I wish you could leave a puzzle under the tree for me. And a toy for my sister. Then she won't want to play with mine and I can have it to myself.  
Merry Christmas, Cassie

Dear Santa,  
You can send me one of everything from the boys' section of the Sears catalogue. But nothing from the girls' section. I can't wait for Christmas to come.  
Kent

Dear Pere Noel,  
Could you come early this year? I've been really super good, but I don't know if I can last much longer.  
Please hurry.  
Love, Jordan

---

You are my Friend  
As we grow older, and hence wiser, we slowly realize that wearing a $300 or $30 watch—they both tell the same time.…

Whether we carry a $300 or $30 wallet/handbag—the amount of money inside is the same;

Whether we drink a bottle of $300 or $10 wine—the hangover is the same;

Whether the house we live in is 300 or 3,000 sq. ft.—The loneliness is the same.

You realize, your true inner happiness does not come from the material things of this world.

Whether you fly first or economy class, if the plane goes down—you go down with it…

Therefore, I hope you realize, when you have mates, buddies and old friends, brothers and sisters, who you chat with laugh with, talk with, have sing songs with, talk about north-south-east-west or heaven & earth….

That is true happiness!!

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- Mailman jumped 15 feet.
- Dog was right. This is fun.

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Musing on the plane:

Why would a young man wear an iridescent red jacket with matching cap?
*Answer*: Because he has a pair of iridescent shoes, and he coaches a youth athletic team.

Why are there no TV screens on a 3hr flight?
*Answer*: WIFI connection is provided (YOU furnish the equipment).

Why does the Flight Attendant serve water from a large bottle and carry small cups? And coffee the same way?
*Answer*: To save on plastic water bottles? To encourage trips to the bathroom? Or maybe it’s just plain easier & faster than pushing a cart down a narrow aisle?

Why, on Friday morning, is 75% of the plane full of young, unsmiling adult men in casual garb, with a phone in one hand and a bag in the other?
*Answer*: Visiting family? Taking the dirty laundry home? An athletic event at the destination: Supporting United Airlines? Tired of the rain & heading for sun?

Why would you take a window seat when it’s totally dark at 4 a.m.?
*Answer*: So you can see a bright, crescent moon and accompanying planet/star— with NO visible stars! Absolutely GORGEOUS!

~Submitted by Joyce Swanson

**Five Undeniable Facts of Life:**

1. Don’t educate your children to be rich. Educate them to be Happy.
2. Best awarded words in London... “Eat your food as your medicines. Otherwise you have to eat medicines as our food.”
3. The One who loves you will never leave you because even if there are 100 reasons to give up he or she will find one reason to hold on.
4. There is a big diff difference between a human being and being human. Only a few really understand it.
5. You are loved when you are born. You will be loved when you die. In between, you have to manage!

If you just want to Walk Fast,
Walk Alone!

But if you want to Walk Far,
Walk Together!

~Submitted by John couch

**MY HOME TOWN**

by Alden Harness

In beauty, like some gorgeous city
Beside the legend-hallowed Nile,
Sits Roseburg, sheltered by her mountains,
Beneath the sun’s effulgent smile.

The glory of her faith illumines
Her ceaseless work in many spheres.
Her fine achievements and expansion
Forever widen through the years.

To me in Roseburg nature’s music
Far sweeter sounds, when swell the breeze.
Than songs of palms on tropic islands
That gem remotest Southern seas.

I heard the call of fertile valleys,
Where Umpqua’s sky-blue waters flow,
And in my life’s resplendent morning,
Came to this town years ago.

I built a business that has prospered:
I never felt the urge to roam.
Forever shall this splendid city,
This peaceful haven, be my home.

Copy Right, 1929 by Alden Harness

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**Six Best Doctors in the World**

1. Sunlight
2. Rest
3. Exercise
4. Diet
5. Self Confidence and
6. Friends

~Submitted by John couch

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the staff at Linus Oakes**