

The Mayflower Log



Fall 2011

A Publication of the Mayflower Residents Association

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KEEPING MAYFLOWER COMMUNITY FUNCTIONING

In addition to Health Services, Food Services and Administration, Facilities Management, Landscaping and Housekeeping contribute greatly to the comfort of Mayflower's residents.

Facilities Management

"How many facilities management staff does it take to replace a light bulb?" Only one, of course.... we're talking about the facilities management staff at Mayflower Community!

Jack Morrison directs the overall care of plant operations. The first of the week he meets with his staff and, together, work out the agenda for the week. Understandably, the agenda items may get replaced temporarily with immediate needs of residents or a system failure, etc.

Erin Gersdorf oversees the day-to-day operations: completing requests from residents, remodeling apartments, fixing or replacing worn-out equipment, testing fire drill regulations, preventive maintenance, setting a venue for regular and special programs. One staff member works mostly at the Health Center and Beebe.

One call, we fix it all.

Erin chuckled as he recited their motto.

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Planning together builds a strong team. Left to right are Erin Gersdorf, Jack Morrison, Ben Pearce, and Tammy Long.

Landscaping

"The most visible task taking much of our time in summer and fall is spent on mowing, trimming, weeding, mulching and fertilizing the lawns," Ben Pearce explained. He continued, "We also take care of the gardens and fish pools."

Ben oversees the repair of sidewalks, and is responsible for the vehicles being in good working condition and serviced in a timely manner.

Even though individuals are assigned specifically to complete specific jobs because they have expertise in a particular area, the work load may call for all to work on the same project, i.e. snow removal.

Working with Ben are the members of MRA's Garden Committee. "They are a great help to me," was Ben's final comment about lawns and gardens.

Our congratulations to Ben. With help of Mayflower's Scholarship Fund Ben earned a Master Gardener's Certificate.



KEEPING MAYFLOWER COMMUNITY FUNCTIONING

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Housekeeping

“And I suppose you would do my ironing?” I ask in jest, trying to be humorous. “Yes, we would!” was Tammy’s reply. “Our goal is to make all residents as comfortable as possible.”

“What else does your 14-member staff do?”
“Let me list our contribution to your comfort:

- clean the Health Center and Beebe, daily
- clean for other residents as requested
- clean apartments and patio homes prior to their being occupied
- clean upholstery and rugs on request
- help with residents’ moving
- clean halls and lounges of apartment buildings
- work with facilities management
- laundry services for residents in the Health Center and Beebe and, if requested, other residents.”

“Our task is to keep all facilities clean. We are very happy to help residents any way we can,” Tammy stated just prior to her answering a call to come help in someone’s apartment.

These staff leaders are aided by a team of persons who help carry out the many tasks needed to be done.

We all appreciate the contribution made by each staff person which adds to our comfort and well being.

Beryl Wellborn

Editor’s note: We have featured other departments — Food Services, Health Center/Beebe and South Village in previous issues. The therapy services available through Key Rehab have also been featured.

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STILL RELATING TO CHILDREN...NEW VENTURE AND CHALLENGE

by Marilyn Schuler

Now that I’m retired, living in Mayflower community, with great grandchildren living at a distance; I’m without children! For forty-five years I have lived with children: my children and grandchildren, students in school, Sunday School, camp. God has provided me a new way to be with children; writing stories, getting books published. In fact the first three stories were written long ago for a Sunday School class at Easter. The first one is now a children’s picture book, with several others ready for the publishing process. On to marketing the book! I’ll do my best, so I can see “What God Will Do.”



This book, which Marilyn Schuler wrote, tells about a donkey who was asked to do a special job, and how the experience changed his outlook on life.

A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE LEADS TO A LIFE-TIME HOBBY

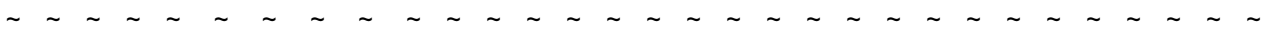
by Sue Ahrens



Sue, with her bird feeder behind her, holds her binoculars she uses for bird counting.

One of my favorite activities from November to the first of April is watching and counting the birds that come to the feeders in Art Heimann's and our yards. This is a citizen science project sponsored by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology in New York. I started this when we lived in MO, and have continued it during our three years here at Mayflower. I watch out our kitchen window and count the birds for two days, then skip five days, and continue on in this cycle. I record the number and kinds of each bird that I see, and then enter the results online. So if you are curious about the birds seen at our feeders in South Harwich, just let me know. I will gladly share the results.

I have always been interested in animals and plants, and about the time I started back to college, I noticed a small bird going head-first down a tree trunk. That feathered friend was a nuthatch, and I was hooked on birding from that moment on.



LIFE'S JOURNEY

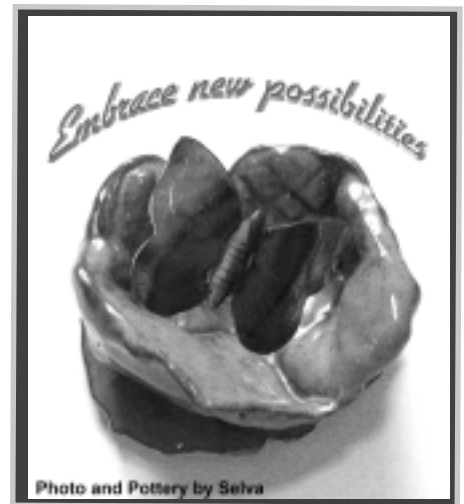
by Rev. Selva Reissig Lehman

I started to digitalize all my pictures and have been reflecting on my life's journey and the transitions that changed the course of the journey.

Leaving my country of birth because of the political persecution; changing careers after joining the church as an adult because I was called to respond to the faith that had challenged my life; moving to different cities; experiencing many losses, amongst them the death, too early, of my closest friend and companion. But along the way, the communities of Faith that I have been part of gave me an extended family to travel through the ups and downs of that journey.

Transition brought anxieties and the temptation to hold to the past. But as I moved on I discovered that when I tried to hold to the past, the journey became cumbersome and I did not have a place for new memories.

I learned to travel light and to live for the day and trust in the God that has surprised me with new adventures each time a door closed.



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HENTZEL'S TRIP TO ECUADOR WITH HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

by Earlene and Dewayne Hentzel



Heifer Project International has always been important to us. With our farming background, we know the many benefits animals can provide to people.

A farmer from Indiana was helping with refugees in the Spanish Civil war giving cups of milk daily to hungry children. And he thought to himself, instead of a cup, why not a cow?! So in 1944 HPI sent its first shipment of cows to Europe.

Today Heifer Project works in 115 countries (including U.S.) and gives more than 26 different animals

to needy families. "Passing on the gift" is the heart of Heifer Project's faith-based mission, so every family gives one or more of their offspring to another family. Each recipient becomes a donor and thus we have the "living gift."

In 1992, we joined a group and traveled to Ecuador. We visited many villages where people, with great pride, showed us their animals and then told us how these gifts had improved their lives. So, we saw for ourselves the success of Heifer Project International!

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MAYFLOWER ALWAYS WELCOMES

by Barbara Rosfjord

We moved to the Mayflower Community in 2006. I spent the first few years meeting Howard's increasing needs for health care. After Howard's death, I wondered—"what next?" I turned to the multitudes of opportunities in my midst.

I have always enjoyed poetry and dabbled, through the years, in writing some for my own pleasure. BUT, Poetry Club, with scholars and gifted people? I hesitated. I'm just plain ME!! With fear and trembling I attended my first meeting and found a wonderful, open and friendly group. They welcomed me and opened up opportunities to continue just being ME!!—but also to stretch and grow. So—my advice to others—GO for IT!

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Sculpted by Derrick Sears and Deb Arment of our able Food Service staff, Mayflower's own 'Butter Cow' was presented at the State Fair Party in August. We too celebrated with lowans across the state the 100th anniversary of the Butter Cow at the Annual State Fair in Des Moines.

Welcome GEORGE AND SUE DRAKE

531 Mayflower Lane

A guy 'hitchin' a ride with two lovely women never knows what will follow. George was that guy and, in due time, married one of the lovely women, Sue, who solved his transportation problem.

They are the parents of Chris (Kay), Detroit, MI; Cynthia (Jeff), Houghton, MI; and Melanie (Tom), St. Louis, MO. There are six grandchildren to enjoy.



Sue has been an elementary school teacher. She also helped train teachers while in the Peace Corps in Lesotho, Africa. A part of her Peace Corps training was Horse Safety Training.

Laughing about it, "I never rode a horse before in my life." She had to design a riding cushion—Sue's soft saddle—which she used while riding to schools in Lesotho. "Local people had never seen a white woman before, to say nothing of seeing one ride a horse. They thought it very amusing."

George's teaching and scholarship interests took them to England. He also taught at Grinnell College and at Colorado College. While at Colorado College he served as Dean.

They now find more time to pursue their interests in music, bike riding, running, reading, church activities, and volunteering. And, of course, the Drake Library speaks to their caring about, and involvement in, the Grinnell Community.

George came to Grinnell College as a student, later was, as is now, a member of the Faculty.

Dr. George Drake was appointed President of Grinnell College in 1979. He served in this capacity until 1991.

Beryl Wellborn

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AN EXPERIENCE ON MANY LEVELS – CERTAINLY ON HISTORY

by Mary Lou and Beryl Clotfelter

One of the trips that we enjoyed most was a tour of Turkey, and one area of Turkey we remember particularly is Cappadocia. Cappadocia is a region where the soil is a soft volcanic rock called tuff, and for thousands of years people have hollowed homes and even underground cities into that soft stone. The homes are no longer occupied because of high radioactivity in the soil, but as tourists we could see how they once were furnished. We also went five levels down into an underground city which at one time was a hiding place for Christians during persecution.



Ancient home in Cappadocia

Welcome LOREE RACKSTRAW

Altmeier 205

Mother. Teacher. Researcher. Author.

Loree graduated Grinnell College and earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from the Iowa Writers' Workshop, University of Iowa.



Loree's professional life spanned 30 years at Northern Iowa University, Cedar Falls, IA. "I taught English, Humanities," she said, "and Mythology."

"One of the most exciting experiences was my exploring and studying in the cave the Paleolithic wall paintings found in France's Lascaux Cave," she recalled. "Because of what I learned, I was able to make the study of early humans more lifelike."

Her interest in world-wide cultures caused her to travel and do research in most of Europe, Egypt and Samoa.

Loree's interest in Mythology, with special attention given to the role of females and goddesses, continues. (She has an extensive collection of goddesses.)

At Iowa's Writers' Workshop, Kurt Vonnegut was one of her teachers. Her book, *Vonnegut as I Knew Him*, recounts her experience at the workshop and her long friendship with Vonnegut.

She edited fiction for *The North American Review*. And she continues to write for academic publications.

To help Loree celebrate her latest birthday and her move to Mayflower, her family gave her a bon voyage party. Her children are Leslie and Rob Wilson, and Kevin, Geoffrey and Didi Rackstraw. She also enjoys the company of her twelve grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

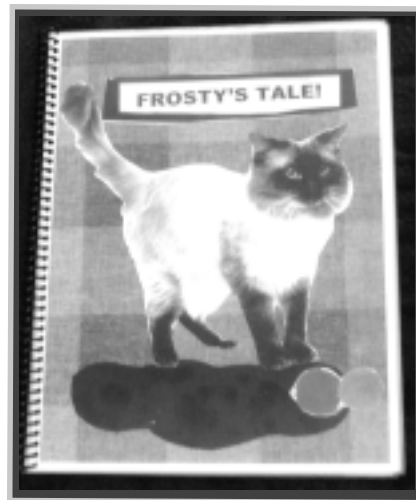
Beryl Wellborn

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Writing *Children's Stories*

by Lorene Morrison

I began my retirement in 2000 due to my deteriorating eyesight. I had been accustomed to working since age 15 in the retail business. With time on my hands, I found myself thinking about my life growing up with sisters, and cousins, and my life on the farm with my husband Willie and our family. I loved the country life and developed a fondness for animals. I began writing stories about animals and my memories on the farm to share with our grandchildren and great grandchildren. I soon began to develop pictures to accompany the stories in book form. I compare the development of the pictures to what is now called scrapbooking. I enjoy making the animals/objects talk and come to life in my stories. I am fortunate to spend quality time with my daughter, Becky Morrison Downey, who helps me with publication tasks.



Lorene Morrison wrote this charming story about Frosty, the cat, who belonged to her friend, Hazel. Hazel is remembered in the tale for tutoring Harold Sanders, later known as Colonel Sanders who started the Kentucky Fried Chicken chain.

