

The Mayflower Log



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The Stew Wants You

The Stew Makerspace, an exciting local artistic collaboration, invites Mayflower residents to join in—to learn, to collaborate, to make art.

The program, housed at 927 Broad Street, hopes to draw participants from across the community. It is co-sponsored by the Grinnell Area Arts Council and the Wilson Center for Innovation and Leadership at Grinnell College.

The Stew houses spaces for ceramics, woodworking, 3D printing, metal working, and more. Each of these spaces includes equipment (3-D printers! Vinyl cutters! Devices for making signs, T-shirts, and buttons!) and a safe place to work. For example, the wood working shop has a dust *filtration system*.

The Stew spaces are staffed by community members and Grinnell College students who provide information, safety training, and instruction. The monitors, skilled in training people and supervising the uses

of equipment, offer workshops in how to use the equipment in making art. For \$30/month, you can gain access to the space. That access includes safety training (required before equipment use), use of the equipment during open hours, instruction on equipment, free attendance at monitor-led workshops, and discounts of professional-led classes and workshops.

The goal for the Stew is to create communities of makers interested in personal artistic expression, where members can both learn from and teach one another.

As the photos by Bill Pollak on pages 2 & 3 demonstrate, some Mayflower residents have already begun using the space.

Judy Hunter



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Chris Hunter doing hand work on a ceramic piece in Studio D. Chris has been doing ceramics for the past two years. Studios C and D house the ceramics areas.



Elizabeth Dobbs at the wheel in Studio D, in the “trimming phase” of a small bowl. Elizabeth took a course in ceramics taught by Cecelia Knight and Jane Mertens. She is now a member and attends open hours. This room houses 5 wheels and 2 kilns, shelves, a slab roller, and a sink.



Cecelia Knight, one of the teachers at the Stew, in Studio C, a room where ceramicists can glaze and store their work.

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Workers and monitors using equipment in the wood shop, Studio B. Note the ducts on the wall, part of a high-efficiency air filtration system.



Mayflower resident and long-time woodworker Darwin Kinne using a vise and sandpaper to finish off the top for a valet box.



Someone inspects one of the tools in the fully functional metal shop. In the right foreground is a sander that works as a belt sander or a disc sander.



Workers in the front room of the Stew, Studio A, the first room you walk into when you enter from Broad Street. The horizontal machine on the left is a vinyl printer, helpful for making large prints, including signs. The bright blue cubes in the back are the 3-dimensional printers. Monitors can train members to use computer programs to create objects these printers make.

MRA President's Annual Report 2021

As a recap of 2021, I note that not even the -16 degree temperature on February 5 could keep Mayflower independent living residents away from getting their first COVID vaccine. With the second shot on February 26th, we all felt much more freedom finally to see our neighbors and interact with each other, even if official large group activities still were limited.

Being so limited in our contact with others left many feeling out of the loop on what was happening at Mayflower. Therefore, the Administration provided four Zoom presentations to MRA members on key issues: (1) Life after the Vaccine on March 22; (2) Engineering, Infrastructure and Sewers on April 6; (3) Major Projects in Beebe and the Pearson basement on April 19; and (4) Digital Transformation at Mayflower on May 3.

Outdoor activities faced the fewest limitations in the spring and summer. One was a new garden plot under the leadership of Leo Lease devoted to growing heirloom beans similar to those eaten by the Pilgrims, among other vegetables and flowers. Another was the 4th of July parade. Outdoor walking groups again were available, to complement the Zoom exercise classes led by Katie Pikul.

The August lawn party at Water Tower Square and the September party at Edwards were well attended, a sign of pent-up demand for social contact with neighbors as well as interest in games. The September tailgate also took advantage of cooperative weather.

Indoor activities, such as Saturday Movies and Armchair Travel initially were limited to 10 people in Kiesel theater, and chapel services in Buckley Lounge also were limited to 10 people. As AV enhancements were added in Kiesel Theater, that fortunately coincided with an expansion in the number of residents who could be seated in the theater, which allowed Chapel services and Forum presentations to resume in that location in September and October, respectively. Eating in the Buckley Dining Room first was limited to two individuals per table, and that limit subsequently was expanded to four per table.

Several coffee and book groups resumed meeting indoors. The Mayflower Wine and Cheese tradition on the last Friday of the month started up again in July. As more

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MRA President's Annual Report 2021

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opportunities for gatherings continued into the fall, the lack of Lyceum performances or an open Mini-Gift Shop still were two major activities that had not returned.

Roughly 40 residents did respond to a survey in August which asked for input about what Mayflower at its best should look like in the future. Regardless of age or location on campus, those responding were looking for a return to pre-covid activities and opportunities.

The MRA Executive Committee followed up a suggestion by the Trustees that a thank you to the staff for keeping us safe would be appreciated. Jeananne Schild and Nancy Guenther led the creation of thank you posters with pictures of the staff in action, which in October were placed in six different work areas. Each staff member also received a \$5 coupon for a Dari Barn treat.

Progress on two longer-run goals is noteworthy. As a result of work by the newly created Information Resources Committee, Bob Mann, and webmaster Angie Schultz, we have a password-protected portal for Residents Only on the Mayflower web page. The resident directory, which can be accessed there, is one of the few ways that newcomers have to become familiar with others in our community

A second long-run goal has been to make basic MRA organization documents available on the web page, although printed copies remain available on request. In July, the first version of this process was accomplished by having the Mayflower Webmaster upload pdf files of the Bylaws, Handbook, annual committee reports, Meeting minutes, and Treasurer's Reports. With the creation of the Resident Only portal, those documents are now password protected. Under an experimental policy the President circulated minutes of the spring Council and Town meetings. In the absence of any additions or corrections, the minutes were then declared approved and posted to the Mayflower web page.

The fall Council and Town meetings occurred in hybrid format, with some attending in person in Kiesel Theater and others joining by zoom. New technology, thanks to the AV committee and Joe Derby, made this innovation possible. As a conclusion to the year, the Mayflower Christmas Fund raised over \$55,000 for employees.

Jack Mutti



AN ARTIST EXTRAORDINAIRE



The exquisite works of iconographer Joan Brand-Landkamer can be found, among many other places, in St. James Cathedral in Seattle, Washington, and St. Mary's Catholic Church in Grinnell, Iowa

Poets At Mayflower

Creativity at Mayflower comes in many forms, including writing poetry. Who knows how many of us occasionally muse in rhyme or put pen to paper in verse?

Six Mayflower residents who take a more serious approach to poetry were published in the 2021 edition of *Lyrical Iowa*, the annual anthology of the Iowa Poetry Association. The publication contains 340 poems selected from close to 1,800 submissions from Iowans all across the state.

The six from Mayflower are Pasha Buck, Sue Drake, Chris Hunter, Judy Hunter, Gene Rohr and Warren Reinecke. Judy was recognized with first place in the adult general category. Warren received first place in a new category titled Poems of the Pandemic.

Each of the six Mayflower published poets approaches poetry in a unique, personal way.

Pasha Buck has written poetry at different times in her life, including the last few years. She is drawn to writing poetry because she has always enjoyed reading it. Her ideas for her poems “form all on their own. I do not try to think of them. Often in the middle of the night I wake up and find I am writing a poem in my head. I get up and just start writing. The rest just comes.”

Sue Drake has a longstanding interest in poetry. When she became more serious about writing, she joined a small group to learn more about the craft. For Sue, poetry has a personal value. “Poems help me see deeper into the world around me and better understand people. Poetry also slows me down in the rat race of daily living. It centers me to appreciate the best parts of each day.” Mary Oliver is one of Sue’s favorite poets. “She harmoniously melds nature with life as no other poet has done.”

Chris Hunter started writing poetry only recently. He enjoys the poetry format. “I like the challenge of compressing ideas into words - carving away extraneous ones - and thereby making the image more powerful.” He has even written some of his poems into haikus, to push the challenge further. Ideas for Chris come from watching events unfold around him or from watching the news. “And sometimes it’s simply how I feel at the moment.”

Judy Hunter describes writing poetry as like solving a puzzle. “I put down some words, bend and twist them, make some connections, and, if I’m lucky, a poem emerges. Most of the time I’m not lucky.” Inspiration for Judy comes from personal experiences—walking at Arbor Lake, seeing an elk while driving on a crowded street in Estes Park, riding a

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Poets At Mayflower (continued from page 7)

city bus in DC, watching her grandson experience the ocean. That last event resulted in her award-winning poem, *A Toddler Meets the Sea*.

Gene Rohr has been writing poetry for about seven years. "I must admit it has become an addiction. I liken it to psychoanalyses without the analyst." His latest poem, titled *Manifest Destiny*, has a focus on past treatment of Native Americans. "A lot of poetry is structured around defining a conflict and then exploring possible resolutions. The struggle is internal, but the resulting poem can be shared."

Warren Reinecke grew up in a storytelling family where it seemed like even the most ordinary happenings could be made into a story. "I think that was the root - leaving the twist, meaning, to the end, like a poem does. After a while you develop a sense of stories that lend themselves to poetic form." He often spends time in the early morning contemplating ideas. "Many times, a poem title comes to mind, to be filled in using a certain form of poetry." He credits Alex Moffett and Dorothy Fyfe, early members of the Mayflower Poetry Club, with encouraging and supporting his writing.

Mary Schuchmann



Mayflower Poetry Club

The Mayflower Poetry Club has brought together writers and lovers of poetry for 30 years. The group was organized in 1992 by residents Alex Moffett, Leedice Kissane and Marian Dunham as a way for published poets and would-be poets to talk about their own writing as well as the works of their favorite established poets. From the beginning, the group was open to the Grinnell community as well as Mayflower residents.

In 2009 under the leadership of Dorothy Fyfe, the group published a collection of their poems titled *Celebration of Language and Mayflower Poets*. (A copy can be found in the Mayflower Library.)

The Mayflower Poetry Club continues today, now under the coordination of resident Tom Moore. It meets on the second Monday of the month in the Mayflower Bistro. New members and visitors are always welcome.

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

**For the year of 2021,
18 names have been added to the
Book of Remembrance:**



The Memorial Committee is notified of a resident's death. At that time, a letter is sent to the next of kin expressing condolences, telling them that a \$50 gift has been sent from the MRA to the Mayflower Human Needs Endowment Fund in memory of their loved one. The Book of Remembrance is found outside the Pearson front desk.

Tommy Haas

Welcome John DeRooi



John DeRooi, like several other Mayflower residents, resided in Grinnell for many years, moved away, and then came back. The DeRooi family first moved to Grinnell in 1965 where they lived for 25 years. They then lived in or near Tempe, Arizona, for nine years before returning to Grinnell in 1999. John moved from the Park Place apartments in Grinnell to Altemeier 205 in September.

John was born near Oskaloosa, Iowa, in 1931. He attended country school through 8th grade, and graduated from Oskaloosa High School in 1949. He met Alice Bolibaugh soon after, and they were married in September 1951. The war in Korea was going on, and upon receiving a draft notice, John enlisted in the Air Force. After basic training and further training in radio, John became a radio operator in Germany for a year and a half, where he reported in Morse Code on the weather in Russia. Alice lived with John in Germany and at his next Air Force job as a radio operator at a radar site in Empire, Michigan. Their first child, Debbie, was born there. John and Alice moved back to Oskaloosa after his active service, and John served four years in the Air Force reserve. In this calling, he was a radio operator in an aerial refueling tanker for B-47 bombers. Ron and Connie were born in Oskaloosa, and Karen was born after they moved to Grinnell.

John's first job after high school and after service in the Air Force was in the home furnishings business. He worked for several years for Wilcox-Garland in Oskaloosa, became a partner, and then opened and managed the Wilcox-Garland store in Grinnell starting in 1965. Alice worked in the Service Bureau at Grinnell College and also in the furniture store. John built and managed the new store for Wilcox-Garland on 1st Avenue, which later became the Uhlmann store. When John left the Wilcox-Garland firm, he and Alice bought Village Decorating, which they ran until 1988 when they sold it. Their daughter Karen and her family were living in Arizona, and Alice and John moved to sun country to join them in 1990. They moved back to Grinnell in 1999. Their move to Mayflower occurred in 2021 as Alice's health was declining. Alice was in the Mayflower Health Center in the Fall of 2021 when she passed away just as they were moving into Altemeier.

John and Alice were close friends for years with several Mayflower couples, including Harris and Ila Stafford, Al and Marie Eisenman, and John and Jewel Kintzinger. John credits them with helping him and Alice return to their roots. John's hobbies and interests have included golf, reading, furniture repair, picture framing, and world travel. He and Alice took

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Welcome John DeRooi

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about a dozen trips to Britain, Germany, Italy, and Yugoslavia; they also went to Hawaii and Liberia, Africa, and enjoyed several river cruises in Europe. It is a great pleasure to welcome John back.

Gene Wubbels

Meet The Murphys

Rich and Joy Murphy have recently moved into their apartment in Pearson. Moving is nothing new for the Murphys, who say that, for them, coming to the Mayflower means no more shoveling snow or raking leaves. They like to travel—to visit relatives, to explore Iowa. “Now,” Joy explains, “we’re ready to have fun.”



The Murphys grew up in central Wisconsin—Joy on a farm near Neillsville (where her 93-year-old mother still lives), Rich in Black River Falls, where he worked on farms owned by his grandparents and neighbors. His cousins were Joy’s friends, and one of the cousins introduced them.

After their marriage, they moved to Memphis, Tennessee. Rich’s job was in purchasing and materials management for a plant that made walk-in coolers. More moves followed: Minnesota; Des Moines; Norwalk; and Wilton. Then, twenty-two years ago, the family moved to Grinnell, where they raised their children, son Jordan and daughter Jenna.

Joy says she “was a housewife, who picked up medical assistant jobs along the way.” She adds, “I loved it.” Later, she worked at Pink Tower, the Maid-Rite, and the First Federal Bank (now the Lincoln Savings Bank) as a receptionist. She was also the receptionist at Dr. Rebelsky’s office. For the past several years, she has been employed by Grinnell College as an administrative assistant in Development and Alumni Relations.

Rich explains that what initially bought the family to Grinnell was a job with the Plastech Company. He also worked at John Deere in Ottumwa, the Poe Roofing

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Meet the Murphys

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Company in Montezuma, and at Brownell's in Montezuma, and afterwards, in Grinnell, until he retired. He's now employed by the college as a driver, sometimes taking students to the doctor, sometimes picking up or delivering people to Cedar Rapids and Iowa City.

The Murphys have found Grinnell very friendly. Jordan and Jenna both loved the theatre program at the high school and took classes at the college; sometimes they worked on the college plays. The whole family has enjoyed the live performances available at the college and in town. Jordan and Rich were both involved with the Boy Scouts.

Now, for relaxation (which they clearly deserve) Joy reads and Rich walks and does genealogy. He has taken pictures of all the gravestones in the cemetery, and, for those interested, he recommends a website called Find-A-Grave, created by a Grinnell College student. And they visit their children, who live nearby—Jenna in Marion, Jordan in Des Moines.

We welcome Joy and Rich to the Mayflower and hope to see a lot of them—between their trips and travels.

Betty Moffett