

The Informer

October 27, 2023
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Informer Updated Distribution Schedule

Please note: The *Informer* will move to a **once-monthly edition** starting in December 2023. The regular distributions will be sent November 10th and November 24th.

The monthly edition will be distributed on the last Friday of each month. Submissions will still be due, now to Joni Schmidt, the Friday prior to publication. **The first monthly edition will be sent on December 29th.** No additional *Informer* editions will be sent in December or going into 2024. You can find the full schedule, per usual, at the bottom of this edition.

Announcing Steve Langerud's Retirement and Kellie McGriff's Promotion as Mayflower Community Executive Director

Following five years as the Executive Director of Mayflower Homes, Inc. Steve Langerud has retired and transitioned the role to Kellie McGriff, BSN, NHA effective October 10, 2023. In addition to Executive Director, McGriff will continue her current role as Nursing Home Administrator.



During his tenure, Langerud utilized his experience as a trusted thinking partner and workplace culture consultant to lead a strategic planning effort supporting Mayflower's long-term goals, while navigating the effects of the global pandemic and a derecho storm.



“Mayflower has benefited from Steve's ability to envision a Mayflower that is strong enough to move into the next 75 years.” says Theresa Pagliai, former Chair, Mayflower Board of Trustees. “He is a bridge builder; he's been able to see the big picture and translate what's important to an organization, to its budget, and to its strategic plan. “He's shown us the ability to reframe situations and people's stories to deliver the best outcome.”

As Kellie McGriff transitioned into the Executive Director role this month, McGriff is no stranger to the Mayflower Community. After two decades in senior care leadership positions and obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a National Nursing Home Administrator's license from the State of Iowa, McGriff returned to Mayflower five years ago to serve as the Mayflower Administrator alongside Langerud.

“I am thrilled to share that my trusted colleague and friend, Kellie McGriff, will be the new Executive Director of Mayflower Homes, Inc.” says Langerud. “Kellie lives the Mayflower mission every day with her innovative leadership in operations and future direction of the Mayflower. Kellie's leadership roles with industry leading organizations outside the Mayflower support Kellie's nuanced understanding of this industry both operationally and politically.”

“The Board of Trustees is unanimous in its support for Kellie,” says Jim Ramsey, incoming Chair, Mayflower Board of Trustees. “Her depth of experience in the healthcare industry and collaborative leadership style will position Mayflower to flourish for years to come.”

McGriff currently serves on the Iowa Health Care Quality Partners (IHCQP) and is active with the Iowa Health Care Association (IHCA) as an advocate for legislative, reimbursement issues, and quality care for senior living. At Mayflower Homes, Inc., McGriff has led innovation initiatives around community life and well-being, technology transformation, business and finance policy and systems, health care systems, and employee wellness.

“Kellie is a tremendous choice to carry out the next chapter in Mayflower's legacy,” says Brent Willett, President and CEO, Iowa Health Care Association. “I have worked with her for years and know how committed she is to her residents and the community at large.”

Located in Grinnell, Iowa, the Mayflower Community began in 1950 as a ministry of the United Church of Christ and has evolved to a life plan



community offering independent living, assisted living, and skilled nursing care for adults over the age of 55. More than 250 people live in the Mayflower Community's patio homes, independent living apartments, assisted living, and health center. More information is available at mayflowerhomes.com, or by calling 641-236-6151. Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining"!



Mayflower Residents Welcome Kellie McGriff as Executive Director

On Friday, October 13th, residents of Grinnell's Mayflower Community welcomed Kellie McGriff as the new Executive Director. The reception was held in Mayflower's multipurpose Carman Center.

Steve Langerud, former Executive Director, highlighted Kellie's new role in his introduction to the afternoon event. Then, Kellie addressed the gathered residents.

Kellie talked about her professional journey in healthcare and, specifically, with Mayflower. She served as Mayflower's Director of Nursing, then sales and marketing and independent living activities director, followed by Director of Home Services, and, for the past five years, as Associate Director/Nursing Home Administrator.

Kellie termed Mayflower her "Place to Call Home." She expressed that she is looking forward to her new role as CEO and NHA (Nursing Home Administrator).

-Bob Mann, Mayflower Sales & Marketing Director

Halloween at Mayflower

The following events will be hosted by Mayflower residents

and staff to celebrate Halloween.

- Halloween Buffet Dinner. Monday, October 30th. 4:30-6:00pm. Buckley Dining Room.
- “Trick or Treat Center” hosted by residents in front of Watertower Square, 625 Broad Street. Tuesday, October 31st. 4:30-7:30pm. The Mayflower Residents Association and some individuals will be providing the treats. In addition, independent living residents will be delivering treats to residents living in Beebe and the Health Center. You are invited to join in the fun. Costumes will be fun but are not mandatory. To make arrangements to join in or to get more information, contact Sis Vogel (641-990-0801).
- A Trick or Treat table hosted by Mayflower Community Life staff in front of the Health Center, 600 Park Street. Tuesday, October 31st. 4:30-7:30pm.
- Annual Pumpkin Decorating. Mayflower staff departments and groups of residents are encouraged to decorate a pumpkin as we have done in the past. They will be displayed in the Buckley Dining Room prior to Halloween and prizes will be awarded.
- Halloween Day Costumes. All staff and residents are encouraged to dress up on October 31st.



Photograph is the Watertower Square table and hosts from October 2022.

Bob Mann, Mayflower Sales & Marketing Director

UnLOCKING the Power of Philanthropy: “We Give,” “G.P.C.F.,” and “Human Needs:” The Rest of the Story

As October ends, so does the “WE GIVE” campaign promoted annually by the Greater Poweshiek



Community Foundation (GPCF) and the Claude W.& Dolly Ahrens Foundation (CDAF). This joint effort is much to be celebrated, as it unites two community-minded foundations, generous donors, and compassionate human service providers, all toward building a stronger Grinnell and Poweshiek County.

Mayflower is a proud partner of GPCF and CDAF and eager to promote “WE GIVE.” Here is the rest of the story, Mayflower’s perspective.

In March 2011, the Mayflower Foundation transferred a small portion of its “Human Needs Endowment Fund” (HNEF) to GPCF to establish a permanent endowment fund there under the same name and for the same purpose. Why? Three reasons.

- 1) GPCF was well known for its investment management skills. As a “permanent” endowment, this new HNEF would make annual distributions exclusively to Mayflower for the care of residents in need. Mayflower’s vision was a fund that would grow in value and, thereby, make increasingly larger annual distributions to Mayflower.
- 2) In 2003, the Iowa legislature and governor enacted “Endow Iowa,” an incentive program to grow permanent endowment funds that benefit Iowa non-profit organizations and are held by “qualified” Iowa community foundations. (GPCF is “qualified” by meeting a minimum asset size.) The incentive? Donors to “Endow Iowa” funds are eligible for a 25% state of Iowa tax credit on the amount of their gifts, which saves 3-5 times more tax than an Iowa charitable income tax deduction.
- 3) Mayflower, GPCF, and CDAF are of one mind in promoting sound financial and charitable planning strategies; strategies that enable all Poweshiek County residents to make a difference for the people served by their favorite charitable organizations.

Since 2011, 165 donors have contributed \$384,000 to the HNEF at GPCF, and coupled with strong investment growth the current fund balance is just under \$600,000. In recent years, the fund has distributed more than \$20,000 per year to Mayflower for the care of residents.

It is not too late to support the 2023 “We Give” campaign. Please visit [GPCF](#) or [CDAF](#) for more details. Support for Mayflower’s HNEF at GPCF can happen during “We Give” or anytime throughout the year.

If you wish to discuss HNEF or any other gift planning opportunity (whether for Mayflower or any other organization) I welcome hearing from you.

-Doug Lockin, CPA, Mayflower Gift Planning Specialist

A Special Birthday at Mayflower

The Rev. Laird Keever, a resident in The Mayflower Community Health Center, has a storied life. A native of Seattle WA, Laird received his B.A. degree from Carlton College, Northfield MN, and then went on to study at the Harvard Divinity School and the Ecumenical Institute, Geneva, Switzerland.



Laird served a number of United Church of Christ churches in Iowa, the first being, ironically, the Mayflower Congregational UCC, Sioux City, Iowa. He was pastoring the First Congregational UCC in Webster City, Iowa, when he had a health episode in 2010. Laird subsequently moved to Mayflower's Beebe Assisted Living in 2011 where he lived until his recent move to Mayflower's Health Center.

Laird would describe himself as a cook, actor, pianist, and volunteer, as well as a pastor. In fact, he played the role of Charlie Brown in the Harvard production of "You Are a Good Man, Charlie Brown."

Recently, Laird celebrated a birthday at Mayflower. His sister Shelia Lenker and her husband Ron of Oregon came to Grinnell to celebrate with him.

Laird is pictured at a special birthday lunch in the Mayflower Health Center with (from left) Vivian Cato, CNA; Lisa Leris, Director of Health Services; and Taylor Gersdorf, Assistant Director of Nursing.

-Tracy Woolfolk, Community Life Coordinator

Music at Mayflower

Talk about medicine for

the ears...and the heart! In the last couple weeks, these musical offerings were provided for residents of The Mayflower Community and their guests.



Thursday, October

12th. Lyceum (once a week evening entertainment sponsored by Mayflower Residents Association). Grinnell's own Too Many String Band. Tom Lacina joined four Mayflower vocalists and string players, Betty and Sandy Moffett, Sig Barber, and Bob Cadmus.

Residents were encouraged to sing along as the Band performed old favorites and some of their own originals. The mix included "This Is Iowa," "Grandma's Feather Bed," "This Land Is Your Land," and "Blue Highway." Betty shared a vignette about Sandy's hand-made Blue Angel Mandolin.

Thursday, October 12th. Earlier in the afternoon. The Mayflower Residents Association Spiritual Life Committee, led by chair Pat Lipton, hosted an Old-Fashioned Hymn Sing. Rev. Bonnie Lipton moderated with brief background on each of about 20 songs. Karen Phillips was the song leader and Peggy Kolpin provided piano accompaniment. Mayflower's Director of Community Life, Leslie Jaworski, handled the visuals, displaying the words for each song.

Among the favorites were "Amazing Grace," "How Great Thou Art," and "In the Garden."

Thursday, October 5th. A week earlier at Lyceum. Grinnell College associate professor of music and saxophonist, Mark Laver presented "How Jazz Works," talking about chord progressions and the complexities of jazz music and artists/musicians. Gershwin was one of among many blues and jazz musicians. Besides playing some jazz sax, Mark asked for questions from the audience to which he responded with in-depth examples of jazz music and history.

Mark was accompanied by talented Grinnell College student, Phukao Prommolmardt, who played a number of piano pieces, including one of his own compositions. The evening's culmination was the Mayflower

audience learning and performing a song. The time was educational and entertaining....and the music was fabulous.

-Leslie Jaworski, Mayflower Community Life Director

Ink Wells and Fountain Pens in the Treasure Chest

During November and December, a collection of ink wells and fountain pens assembled by Ann Igoe will be on display in the Mayflower Residents Association Treasure Chest, located in the Pearson lobby. Ink wells were hollowed out stones in ancient times. They evolved to include decorative and ornate designs made of a variety of materials. With the invention of ballpoint pens and the typewriter, they eventually went out of fashion. Watch for more details in an upcoming Informer.

For information about the Treasure Chest, contact Doug or Ginny Cameron (236-4544), cameronv641@gmail.com or Janis Peak (236-8993).

Resident News

Wine & Cheese Gathering

The next Wine and Cheese event will be **Friday, October 27th. 4:30-5:30pm. (today!) Buckley Dining Room.** Come and enjoy Mayflower resident conversation...and refreshments!

In addition, Nancy Cadmus and Jack Mutti, members of the MRA Information Resources Committee, will be at a Dining Room table to assist with computing/phone issues.

MRA Forum "Prairie Restoration"

Sandy Moffett and Bob Kessler
Tuesday, November 14, 2023. 2:00-3:30pm.
Kiesel Theatre

The Mayflower Residents Association sponsors a monthly Forum where information of interest to Mayflower residents is presented and

followed by a question-and-answer time. The presenters for November's Forum will be resident Sandy Moffett and Bob Kessler. They will talk about their involvement in prairie restoration.

-Bob Butterfield, MRA Events Committee Chair

From the Information Resources Committee, Tip of the Month

Are you unable to connect to the internet in your apartment? Unplug your modem, wait a minute, plug the modem back in, and try to connect. (Check in settings to verify that you are connected.) If this problem occurs frequently, ask Erin Gersdorf to check the signal strength from your modem and potentially arrange for a new modem.

Booklist

Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate
Lessons from Plants by Beronda L. Montgomery
The First Ladies (large print) by Marie Benedict and Christopher Murrury
The Revolutionary Samuel Adams by Stacy Schiff
A Matter of Life and Death by Phillip Margolin
The Mermaid Chair by Sue Monk Kidd
I Have Some Questions For You by Rebecca Makkai
The River We Remember by William Kent Krueger
Into the Forest by Rebecca Frankel
Dying Well by Ira (M.D.) Bycock
Unaccustomed Earth by Jhumpa Lahiri
The Flight by Julie Clark

Book Reviews

The First Ladies

Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray

This novel is written by the bestselling authors of *The Personal Librarian*. It is the story of the extraordinary partnership between First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and civil rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune. As very different, yet equally formidable, passionate, and committed women, their singular friendship helped form the foundation for the modern civil rights movement.

I Have Some Questions for You

Rebecca Makkai

This is the story of 40 year old Bodie Kane, a journalist who hosts a podcast on women in film. She is invited back to her alma mater, Granby, to teach a two week workshop. One of her students decides to do a podcast on the murder of Thalia Keith, Bodie's former roommate. This opens up many questions about how this crime was handled, and whether the person in prison actually committed the crime. Bodie realizes that she might know something that holds the key to Thalia's real murderer and she doesn't stop asking questions until she discovers the answer.

November 2023 Armchair Travels

Armchair Travel videos (Kiesel Theatre; 2:00-3:30pm):

November 2nd

Italy, Rome, The History of 1

Italy, Rome, The History of 2

U.S., California, Pasadena, Palomar

November 9th

Artic, Masters of the Ice

Mexico, Coper Canyon

November 16th

U.S., Virginia, Robert E. Lee

November 30th

U.S., Pennsylvania, Gettysburg Stories of Valor

Greece, the City States

-Shane Estes, Resident

Kiesel Theatre Movie Showings

Saturday Afternoon Movies Are Back (2:00pm)

October 28: *All About Eve* (1950). From the moment she glimpses her idol at the stage door, Eve Harrington (Anne Baxter) moves relentlessly towards her goal: taking the reins of power from the great actress Margo Channing (Bette Davis). The cunning Eve maneuvers her way

into Margo's Broadway role, becomes a sensation and even causes turmoil in the lives of Margo's director boyfriend (Gary Merrill), her playwright (Hugh Marlowe) and his wife (Celeste Holm). Black & White. NR. 138 minutes. English subtitles.

November 4th: *And So It Goes* (2014). Michael Douglas and Diane Keaton give captivating performances in a smart, sexy comedy about life, love, and second chances. When his estranged son leaves his granddaughter for him to raise, obnoxious realtor Oren (Douglas) recruits his sweet neighbor Leah (Keaton) to help. In the process Oren realizes it may not be too late to begin appreciating the people in his life. PG-13. English subtitles, 93 minutes.

November 11th: *Billy Elliot* (2006). This is a heartwarming story of a young boy from a working-class family who discovers a passion that will change his life forever. Eleven-year-old miner's son Billy is on his way to boxing lessons when he stumbles upon a ballet class. Billy secretly joins the class. Under the guidance of his teacher Billy's raw talent takes flight. But when his father discovers his son's ambition, Billy must fight for his dreams and his destiny. R, English subtitles, 111 minutes.

November 18th: *Casablanca* (1943). Casablanca: Easy to enter, but hard to leave, especially if your name is on the Nazis' most-wanted list. Atop that list is Czech Resistance leader Victor Laszlo (Paul Henreid) whose holy hope is Rick Blane (Humphrey Bogart), a cynical American who sticks his neck out for no one, especially Victor's wife Ilsa (Ingrid Bergman), the ex-lover who broke his heart. So, when Ilsa offers herself in exchange for Laszlo's safe transport out of the country, the bitter Rick must decide what's more important—his own happiness or the countless lives that hang in the balance. PG, B&W, English subtitles, 103 minutes.

November 25th: *Angel* (2006). A teenage girl with a vivid imagination knows what she wants and fearlessly goes after it. Angel Deverell (Romola Gari), the daughter of a grocer, fantasizes about living in the town mansion, Paradise House. She interests a London publisher (Sam Neill) in her romantic novel, and he manages to turn the over-the-top melodrama into a bestseller, allowing Angel to buy Paradise House and pursue the man of her dreams, a painter (Michael Fassbender) struggling for his own big break. NR, English subtitles 119 minutes.

Mayflower Worship Opportunities

Worship

These two worship opportunities are offered by the Mayflower Residents Association Spiritual Life Committee:

Weekly Devotions. Tuesdays. 11:00 – 11:40am. Carman Center. Prayer; scripture; stories. Relax; reflect; renew. Leader: Rev. Bonnie Lipton. No registration required.

Bible Study. 1st and 3rd Thursdays. 11:00am – 11:45am. Health Center Fireside Room (2nd floor). Leader: Rev. Anne Sunday. All are welcome; no sign-up required.

-Pat Lipton, MRA Spiritual Life Committee Chair

“People of The Bible” Discussion Session

Resident Marilyn Schuler is leading a session entitled, “People of the Bible,” on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. 11:00-11:45am. Fireside Room (2nd floor of the Health Center). All are welcome. Please contact Marilyn Schuler (641-891-7760 or mschuler107@gmail.com) with questions.

-Rev. Anne Sunday, Resident

LYCEUM SCHEDULE

Thursday Evenings, 7:00pm

Carman Center

Guests of Residents Welcome

November 2nd: Yiddish Music with Abe Goldstien

November 9th: Flute-iano Duo

November 16th: Fred Buck Band, the Grasshoppers

-Bob Butterfield, MRA Events Committee Chair

Birthdays

Christine Tinker on October 29th
Bob Cadmus on October 30th
Nancy Hendrickson on October 30th
Sis Vogel on October 30th
Sue Drake on November 1st
Debi Olson on November 1st
Esther Adkins on November 2nd
Pat Lipton on November 2nd
Greg Buntz on November 3rd
John Graves on November 3rd
Carmen Raffety on November 3rd
Jack Mutti on November 5th
Paul Munyon on November 9th
Chris Hunter on November 13th

In Memoriam

Delores Montgomery
Date of Birth: November 22, 1932
Date of Passing: October 22, 2023

Informer Publication Schedule

Submission deadline November 3rd for publication November 10th
Submission deadline November 17th for publication November 24th
Submission deadline December 15th for publication December 22nd
Submission deadline January 19th for publication January 26th (2024)
Submission deadline February 16th for publication February 23rd
Submission deadline March 22nd for publication March 29th
Submission deadline April 19th for publication April 26th
Submission deadline May 24th for publication May 31st
Submission deadline June 21st for publication June 28th

Find more of *The Informer* online [here!](#)



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**Mayflower
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