

# Sunny Side of Life

March 1, 2020

**Sponsoring Churches/Board of Directors**  
 Buhler MB-Mary Ellen Jantz, Charlotte Smith,  
 Velma Goertzen  
 Buhler Mennonite-Deanna Siemens  
 Hoffnungsau Mennonite-Louis Martens  
 Bethany Nazarene-Kay Scheel  
 Crossroads Christian-Open  
 Buhler Methodist-Joe McGowen  
 Victorious Life-Pam Turner

At large-Cameron Kaufman, Clem Kilpatrick, Mary Frazier

**Sunshine Meadows Retirement Community - 400 S. Buhler Rd. - Buhler, KS 67522 - 620-543-2251**

## Your Home, Your Life - Keith Pankratz, Administrator

At SMRC, we work at creating homelike spaces. Being visionary is important in making this happen. Updates keeping our surroundings fresh and appealing, as well as working properly, are important to peoples' perceptions of a happy home. In order to keep this happening, we have established a fund to assist with campus improvements.

One of the ongoing priorities is giving a facelift to the outdated rooms in Heartland neighborhood. Our annual Gala event is focused on raising funds to complete this project. These facelifts (new flooring, lighting, etc.) enhance the quality of life for residents in their new environment.

During the winter months, we hired First Generation to record video of everyday life on campus. Numerous testimonies on these videos share our residents' stories of how they adjusted to a new home, made new friends, and settled in - - still making new, good memories.

The "Your Home, Your Life" video series debuts March 6 at the Gala, held at SandHills Center in Hutchinson, and later will be shared with our residents and the general public. We believe that, like us, you'll be pleased with how the videos reflect the good life at Sunshine Meadows.

We hope you'll plan on attending the Gala to see for yourself what we're doing, and to help in this effort. Get your tickets to the Gala now and come join in the fun! Buy tickets online by going to our website: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/annual-gala-tickets-95423164253> or call 620-543-2251 to pay by phone; or stop by the front desk. Tickets are \$75 and support Sunshine Meadows' residents in their daily lives. And, of course, the live auction, delicious buffet, and dessert bar are well worth it.

**In a society that has you counting money, pounds, calories, and steps, be a rebel and count your blessings instead.**

### We said Goodbye to...

**Georgia Brunholtz**

### We Welcome...

**Tony Dyer  
 Charlotte Franklin  
 John Gumpenberger  
 Paul Lawson  
 Micky Stout**

### Resident & Staff Birthdays:

#### Residents...

3/1: F. Reimer  
 3/2: A. Dick  
 3/11: J. Miller  
 3/13: T. Corwin  
 3/22: P. Richardson  
 3/24: B. Bates  
 3/23: J. Gumpenberger

#### Staff...

3/1: Krista Crawford  
 3/2: Candi Almquist  
 3/2: Shasta McCall  
 3/3: Ellissa Stringfellow  
 3/6: Dominic Wesley  
 3/8: Laura Tracy  
 3/13: Brianna Peterson  
 3/21: Cody Brandenburger  
 3/22: Angela Dunn  
 3/26: MacKenzie Meier  
 3/28: Ruth Lindahl  
 3/29: Jennica Price  
 3/30: Bryanna Sidebottom  
 3/31: Savanna Curry

**SUNSHINE MEADOWS' ANNUAL**

# Gala

A FORMAL, FUN FUNDRAISER TO SUPPORT THE ELDERS OF OUR COMMUNITY

**Friday, March 6**

6:00 pm Dinner Served

7:00 pm Announcements

Mr. Witt's Wit

The Element of Surprise

But Seriously, Folks

Live Auction

Dessert Bar opens at the end of the auction.

**Keith Pankratz, CEO**  
 keithp@sunshinemeadows.org  
**Rita Black, Human Resources**  
 hr@sunshinemeadows.org  
**Londa Tipton, RN-Director of Nursing**  
 don@sunshinemeadows.org  
**Debra Thompson, RN, MDS Coord.**  
 mds@sunshinemeadows.org  
**Rachel Perry, LPN-Care Manager**  
 rperry@sunshinemeadows.org  
**Krista Crawford, LPN-MCU Care Manager**  
 kristac@sunshinemeadows.org  
**Amanda Downtain, LPN-AL Care Manager**  
 almanager@sunshinemeadows.org

# Meeting Our Neighbors

## With Judy Dickinson

**Reba Jansen** says she has lived just an “ordinary life,” but she has faced some unique circumstances. Reba was born in Ottawa, Kansas, and when she was a year old, her dad began working for a farmer in the country near Quenemo, Kansas, in Osage County. The family lived there for several years. When she was old enough, she walked a mile each day to a one-room school house.

Reba’s grandparents lived outside of Melvern on a farm, and when Grandpa Allen was killed in an accident, the family moved there to take care of Grandma. Reba and her siblings transferred to a country school near Melvern. Reba graduated from Melvern High School, where she met Joe Sell, who became her sweetheart. The two were married right after graduation, and Joe began his career working for the railroad. He became a Santa Fe Railroad Student Foreman, which meant that he was in charge of gangs of workers who manually labored to upkeep the railroad tracks. They lived in that area for eight years and were blessed with three children: two boys and a girl.

Like many industries in the 1950s, the railroads became highly mechanized and the need for workers went by the wayside, so Joe was forced to look for another job. He went to work for the Vickers Refinery in Potwin, Kansas, as a Boiler Fireman. In 1958, Joe was killed in a flash fire at the refinery. This dramatically changed Reba’s life. Her parents lived near Medora and they wanted her to be nearby so they could help with her children, so she moved to a house in Buhler on Avenue B. Her children attended Buhler Grade School.

Anyone else in her shoes might have felt defeated, but Reba fully relied on God. She had accepted Jesus as her savior at age 19, and seriously dedicated her life to Him at that time. She says that God has been with her through many of the trials of life and she doesn’t know how people who don’t know Him can make it as they face life’s challenges.

Reba had grown in her Christian walk and developed a heart for missions. She felt called by God to work in the mission field. This could not have been an easy undertaking for a single mother, but Reba followed God’s leading. She relocated with her three children to Berean Mission Navajo School near Bloomfield, New Mexico. This boarding school taught Navajo children from

kindergarten through eighth grade. Many of the children didn’t speak English, so the school taught English to help them find good jobs when they grew up. In addition, they taught the children about the Lord. Her children went to school with the Navajo children, learning to speak some Navajo and becoming friends. Eventually, the missionaries’ children transferred to a nearby school because they were a bit more advanced in their education.

Reba wore several hats at the school. She ordered all the food for the kitchen and took charge of preparing the meals. She also helped with art and music.

During those years, there was trouble in the Belgian Congo, now the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Congolese missionaries were brought home because the mission field was too dangerous. They were sent to help at the school. One of the missionaries was Albert Jansen, a widower. He and Reba met, fell in love, and were married there. Albert and Reba were not allowed to go to the Congo, so the family moved to San Antonio, where Albert taught school. Eventually, the couple moved to Medora, where Albert pastored Medora Community Bible Church. During that time, Reba worked 11 years at Hutchinson Hospital in the Medicare Insurance Department, and nearly seven years at Blue Cross/Blue Shield. In the mid 1970s, Albert underwent open heart surgery and could no longer work as a minister. The couple moved to Hutchinson. He lived 17 years after the surgery and passed away in 1993.

Reba’s relationship with the Lord saw her through the loss of her husbands and many trials. She feels very blessed! She was not only allowed to be a missionary in New Mexico, but also she was able to fly to visit Brazil and help with missions there, teaching women and children through an interpreter. She also said she never imagined that she, a farm girl, would have the opportunity to board a jet by herself, fly to Israel, and visit the places where Jesus walked.

Reba’s children gave her three grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Her daughter lives in North Carolina, one son lives in Phoenix, and her younger son, Roger Sell, a retired Buhler rural mail carrier, *Reba Cont’d. next page.*



Photo by  
K. Pankratz

It's never too late to enjoy the pleasures of life! Resident Jean VanVoorhis took a few moments from her busy day during the last big snow to be creative and have some fun. Everyone's day was brightened by this little guy!

*Prairie Star Dental provides service to all SMRC residents, with dental cleanings at SMRC available every six months, & transportation to Hutchinson provided for extractions, fillings and other issues. Medicare/Medicaid insurance is accepted. All clients are on a sliding scale & only charged according to their ability to pay with monthly funds allocated.*

**With flu season still upon us, we ask, for the protection of our family of residents: PLEASE don't visit if you are sick.**

*I sought the Lord,  
and He heard me,  
and delivered me  
from all my fears.*

**Psalm 34:4**

With around 85 residents living here, keeping track of personal belongings can be a challenge! Families can help by taking new clothing to the laundry department for marking, and adding anything valued at \$25 or more to the inventory list on the back page of the charts at the nurses' station BEFORE leaving the item in the resident's room. All cash is to be kept in the business office, where it is always accessible during normal business hours, and through the nurse's station on weekends and off-hours.

Sadly, some fine new Christmas clothing is stuck in the laundry, as it was not marked. There is a rack outside the laundry room from 6 am to 2:30 pm Monday—Friday; please look through it to see if any of your family member's clothing wound up there! Thank you! - - Laundry Department



Reba Janzen



*"Enjoy each day. Whatever life hands you, enjoy it."  
~ A pearl of wisdom from Della Dirks*

*Della celebrated her 21st birthday on February 29th. Of course, birthdays only come around every four years when you're a Leap Year baby. Happy birthday, Della!*

**Reba Continued**

lives in this area. He built a small house for her beside his own home in the country, and she lived there for many years. At age 90, Reba has come full circle and finds herself now living on B street in Buhler again in the Sunshine Villa Apartments. Her "ordinary life" has been a tremendous blessing to her, her two husbands, her children, and to the many others touched by her love, as she served the Lord.

# March 2020 Sunny's Specials

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <b>Fresh Salad Bar</b> Mon.-Fri.	2 Triple Cheese Grilled Cheese with Tomato Basil Soup	3 Monte Cristo with Pasta Salad	4 Sweet & Sour Chicken Wrap with Fresh Fruit	5 Grilled Ham Steak or German Sausage Dinner	6 Pollo Bandito Dinner	7 <u>2/\$10</u> <i>Sunny's Famous Burgers &amp; Chips</i>
8 	9 Fried Shrimp & Fries	10 Orange Chicken, Rice & Egg Roll with Fried Sugar Roll	11 Smoked Beef Dinner with Calico Beans	12 Liver & Onions Dinner	13 MACHO Burrito Dinner	14 <u>2/\$10</u> <i>Sunny's Famous Burgers &amp; Chips</i>
15	16 Ham & Turkey Panini with Potato Salad	17 Buffalo or BBQ Chicken Wings with Vegetables	18 Pasta Bar with Caesar Salad & Garlic Toast	19 Classic Hot Beef Sandwich	20 Build Your Own Taco Salad	21 <u>2/\$10</u> <i>Sunny's Famous Burgers &amp; Chips</i>
22	23 Shepherd's Pie with Loaded Corn Bread	24 Build Your Own Omelet	25 Dress Your Own Baked Potato	26 Roast Turkey Dinner	27 Chicken Enchilada Dinner	28 <u>2/\$10</u> <i>Sunny's Famous Burgers &amp; Chips</i>
29 	30 Chicken Salad with Fresh Fruit	31 Sader Family Meatloaf Dinner	400 S. Buhler Rd., Buhler, KS. Open to the PUBLIC	Sunny's Café inside Sunshine Meadows Retirement Community serves breakfast all day, daily specials, and fresh homemade desserts. Sunny's takes special orders for cakes, pizzas, zwiebach, & cookies.		Open M-F 7-7 Open Sat. 7-2

\$12.50 + tax

Seniors: \$11.95

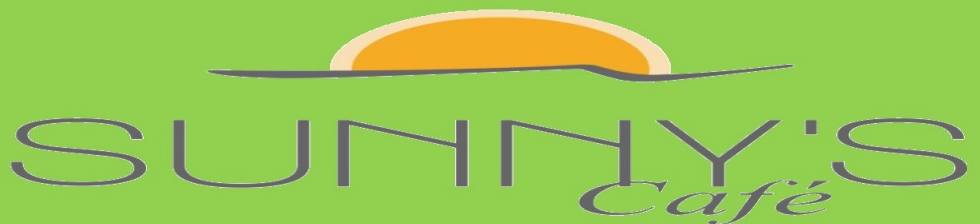
Children under age 10: \$7.95;

Under age 2: free.

SMRC Residents:

\$10.80

*Sunday Buffet*



March 8th, 2020, 11-1:30

MENU:

Starters

Layered Salad, Coleslaw, Fresh Fruit, Jello Salad

Entrees

Smothered Pork Loin, Chicken Supreme

Sides

Mashed Potatoes and Gravy

Dilled Wax Beans, Buttered Corn

Peas and Carrots

Dessert

Assorted Delicious Pies, Ice Cream with Toppings