



# The Sunny Side of Life

The monthly family/staff newsletter of  
Sunshine Meadows Retirement Community

[www.sunshinemeadows.org](http://www.sunshinemeadows.org); 620-543-2251; 400 S. Buhler Rd., Buhler 67522

Drop off non-perishable deliveries M-F, 9 to 4, @ front door; call so we can pick up. See website/call for a list of essential items.

May 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-Open  
At large-Cameron Kaufman, Clem Kilpatrick, Mary Frazier

## The Pause Button Stuck - Keith Pankratz, Administrator

The COVID-19 pandemic caught most of us off guard. We saw what was happening in China, then Europe, hoping it would fizzle out before it reached our shores. Not! It hit harder than imagined, affecting health and the economy. The U.S. was clearly unprepared for the amount of PPE and testing needed.

Things will begin to return to normal, but unfortunately, the Long Term Care industry will be on pause for the longest amount of time; in Kansas, it was the first to react and will be the last to reopen. Everyone understands that senior citizens are our most vulnerable population.

SMRC has truly been blessed, as the virus has pounded at the door, but so far has been kept out. We are grateful for all of our prayer warriors and believe their efforts have played a significant role in our continued wellness.

*Continued on page 5*

Need something to do in lockdown? If you would like to send cards to some of our residents, please call SMRC at 620-543-2251 Monday-Friday, 9-4, for a list of those who would really appreciate a note. If you live nearby, you may drop them off (see above info); otherwise, mail to SMRC address. See page 3 to get inspired.

**Life during social distancing:** L to R, photo of three of our four staff Stacies: Stacie Beckman, housekeeping; Stacey Thomas, housekeeping/laundry; and Stacie Klassen, marketing director. Thomas and Klassen share the middle name of Lynn. Stacie Lewis, R.N., works third shift.



## We said Goodbye to: Carolyn Seymore

Carol Ressler

## Resident & Staff Birthdays:

### Residents

- 5/8: Reed Graber
- 5/11: Acey Dials
- 5/12: Nick Rempel
- 5/17: Joanne Arie
- 5/19: Sandy Trafficanto
- 5/21: Mandy Dick
- 5/21: Gayle Williams
- 5/24: Evie Doerksen
- 5/27: LaVerna Richert



### Staff

- 5/1: Trenton Babcock
- 5/5: Mikaela Mayes
- 5/5: Paul Swenson
- 5/7: Alyssa Nisly
- 5/10: Michelle Cross
- 5/10: Laura Hostetler
- 5/11: Mackenzie Stafford
- 5/15: Kelsey Babcock
- 5/19: C. J. Belcher
- 5/21: Karla Mathews
- 5/23: Jeremy Nisly
- 5/25: Rosalba Escamilla



*Dat bad old COVID-19 couldn't keep the Easter Bunny away, no Sir!*



### Keith Pankratz, CEO

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# Meeting Our Neighbors

## -With Judy Dickinson

Ellie (Martens) Jones was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, while her father was attending seminary there. The cold winters were treacherous for her dad, who rode a bicycle from home to school! Icy roads meant he might fall and get hurt, so the family relocated to Waco, Texas, where her dad attended Baylor University until a small Southern Baptist Church in Devers, Texas, called him to be their new pastor.

Ellie remembers those years fondly. Just before her eighth birthday, her dad asked if she wanted to accept Jesus as her savior. They prayed together. She was baptized the next Sunday, her eighth birthday. Her parents always recalled that Ellie made up her own songs about being saved so she could be with Jesus one day.

Eventually, Ellie's dad was called to pastor a church in Chicago. Soon, though, World War II broke out, and he felt called to be a chaplain in the United States Army to offer solace to injured soldiers; but the war took its toll on her father. After a time, he felt he could no longer serve as a pastor.

While her dad served in the war, Ellie, her sister, and her mother came back to the Hutchinson area because both sets of grandparents lived in Buhler. When her father came home, God opened a door at the right time, as a gentleman they knew had a small Christian bookstore for sale in Hutchinson. They agreed on a price and purchased the store, but it seemed too small. Eventually, they found the right building at 407 N. Main, the home of the Christian Supply Store, which they owned for over 30 years. It seemed like this was the place God wanted them to be. Ellie helped in the store in the summers. She and her sister both graduated from Buhler High School.

Ellie decided to attend Bob Jones University, where her sister and brother-in-law, Ruth and John Lyle, were living. Ellie lived in the dorm and majored in the arts. Drawing was her hobby. After two years, Ellie decided to come home and attend Salt City

Business College in Hutchinson so she could become a secretary. Ellie met her friend, Donna, at school, and Donna invited Ellie to come home with her for the weekend. She lived on a farm in southern Kansas. On Sunday afternoon, Ellie, Donna, and Donna's parents went for a drive to Salt Plains, not far from Enid, Oklahoma. They happened to meet a young man named Bob Jones and his friend, Bill. Ellie says it was like something out of a storybook because it seemed to be love at first sight. When she saw Bob, she knew he was "the one!" She always felt like God had a hand in their getting together. After Bob met Ellie's parents, her dad told her later that Bob was tall, dark, and handsome!

On June 28, 1953, the couple were married at First Baptist Church on Main Street in Hutchinson. A year later, to the day, Ellie and Bob's first child, Bobby, Jr., was born. Terri was born 13 months later; when Judy came along, their family was complete.

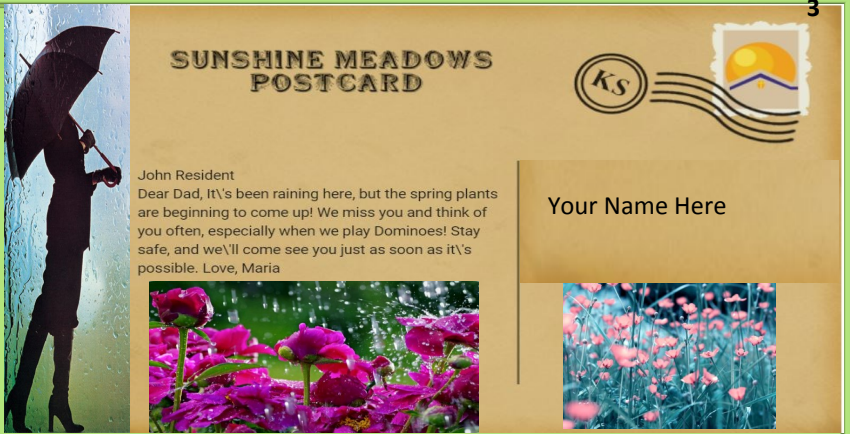
Like Ellie's father, Bob felt called to be in the ministry, but he had to draw the line at learning Greek and Hebrew. Bob became a carpenter for a time in Enid, then became a lineman for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, climbing telephone poles and repairing cables. When the company wanted Bob to relocate, he decided to quit his job.

Meanwhile, Ellie's mom and dad felt it was time for them to retire; they asked Bob to run the store. Bob and Ellie acquired the building next door to Christian Supply and remodeled the shop, reopening as the Lighthouse Gift Shop. Ellie designed their neon sign. The couple hired four employees; their older children also helped in the store. What an exciting time!

As their children grew up and began lives of their own, Ellie and Bob served the Lord in an unusual and creative way.

*Ellie, continued next page*

**KEEPING IN TOUCH** — You probably know that you can send a postcard to your loved one by going to our website, [www.sunshinemeadows.org](http://www.sunshinemeadows.org), and clicking on Resident Life, then Message Resident. Simply write a short message, including your loved one’s name, and your name, where indicated. Postcards are printed and delivered on all business days. Above the postcard, there are four options for backgrounds; just click on the one you want to use. If you stick with the plain background (shown above), the staff person who prints the cards will “dress it up,” based upon what’s written (i.e., if you write about rain, or flowers, etc., pictures of those items will be used). It’s wonderful to have something tangible from a family member or friend when we are feeling lonely. Cards and letters get read and re-read many, many times. Remember: what you write isn’t nearly as important as your kind intention.



**MOTHER’S DAY is May 10!** On Friday, May 8, we plan on spoiling our mothers here at SMRC! We encourage families to do a window chat (as below), and also **we are asking families to email or Facebook message SMRC with a 30 - second video describing what their mother means to them!** You can send these videos to [jodya@sunshinemeadows.org](mailto:jodya@sunshinemeadows.org) or friend us at sunshinemeadowsact on Facebook; and then send the video via private messenger on Facebook. **Please send the video by May 4th.** Be sure to note who the message is for.



Missing mother/daughter time? Martha Mohler and daughter, Linda Witt, aren’t letting a wall stop them! All they need is a window and cell phones to not only hear, but see, each other. A flower basket and wave from Linda’s hubby, Gary, adds to the fun. **If you live nearby, call and set up a window chat! We’ll supply a phone if needed.**

**BUT:** while tempting, please do **not** ask for the window to be opened.



*Ellie, continued*

They were known for giving “Chalk Talks.” While Bob read the words to a hymn, Ellie illustrated it by drawing a picture in chalk. Whenever possible, someone would softly play the hymn on the piano in the background. Sometimes they would enhance the completed drawing by using a color wheel, changing the chalk colors as it turned. Through the years, they did 75 Chalk Talks, often giving away the picture at the end, at churches, nursing homes, PTA meetings, and, as with the Optimist Club at Carey Park, sometimes outdoors. One of Ellie’s favorites was Let the Lower Lights Be Burning. Ellie says their main goal was to serve the Lord and be a witness. They had 62 wonderful years together serving God, and Ellie is still a bright light at Sunshine Meadows.



Ellie Jones

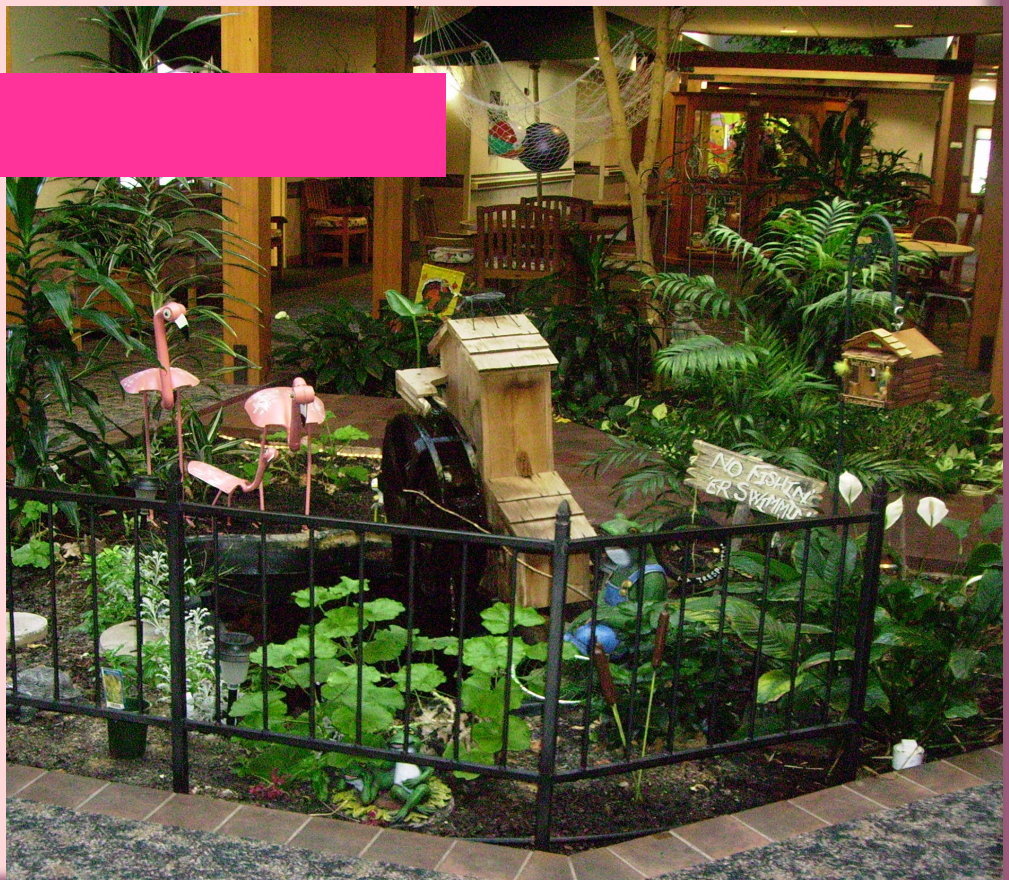
**PHONE SCAM ALERT** from the Reno County Deputy's Office: We've received reports of a phone scam where the caller impersonates a Reno County deputy. For example, the impostor says the individual missed their jury duty obligation, and the individual will be arrested unless they make a payment. The impostor will ask for payment with gift cards by providing the card information over the phone. These schemes are often sophisticated, making it difficult to tell if it's credible. One person said he was Deputy Pearson, badge No. 107. There's no Pearson on staff, and that's not how our badge numbering works. If you're ever unsure, PLEASE call the Sheriff's Office or 911. The impostor may be pushy or threaten your arrest to try to keep you on the phone. We don't operate like that. We need you to be wise to these schemes, because it's extremely difficult for us to chase down the culprit. YOU are the first and best line of defense against phone scams.

We recently realized that we really need a speaker system in Assisted Living for when we have groups gathered there (yes, spaced six feet apart!). The atrium space where residents meet for events, such as exercise, games, etc., is large, with very high ceilings, so it can be hard to hear people. We've looked into pricing, and for the big space, a workable system will come to \$4,000. Wow!

Now's no good time for bake sales, etc., but if you'd like to help, we know that lots of small gifts will eventually bring us up to our goal. If you have a heart for someone living (or formerly living) in our Assisted Living Neighborhood, please consider making a gift earmarked for the **AL speaker system**, in that person's honor, or in his/her memory.

## Home Needs

Perhaps consider how much you'd spend on a batch of our cinnamon rolls, or two dozen cookies; write the check and smile as you think of all the calories you're NOT consuming, and all the happiness our residents will enjoy when they can hear what's going on in their neighborhood!





Memory Care staff wear their purple masks to represent dementia care: L-R, Krista Crawford, Care Coordinator; Sarah Brown, SSD/CNA; Sam Elzey, CMA; and Katie Graham, CNA.

*The most beautiful things in life are not things. They're people, places, and memories. They're feelings, moments, smiles, and laughter.*

*The Pause Button Stuck, Continued from page 1*

This strange, unprecedented point in time has expanded our world in several ways:

- More opportunity for online learning
- Zoom meetings tend to be shorter than in-person meetings
- Streaming church services have their positive features (it's okay to hit the pause button and discuss a point of the sermon)
- Families are spending time together outdoors
- Old reruns on TV aren't so bad
- No current sports means finding new pastimes
- Informal curbside dining makes for interesting conversations
- We're challenged to be creative as we send cards to loved ones

For the time being, we are grieving in a wilderness of uncertainty. As we continue to be patient, what can we glean from difficult times? Could it be:

- Trust and Obey, for there's no other way?
- Less sports, some news, more reading, journaling, and doing good deeds = feeling good about life?
- More, and more sincere, prayer creates deeper thought and a closer walk with God?
- The focus on germs means our homes are cleaner than ever?
- Courage is a discipline we need to cultivate?
- That the first and second commandments are still the most important - loving God, and loving others?
- That the real conquerors aren't sports celebrities, but healthcare workers and supporting staff, cooks, custodians, and other unsung heroes?

As we reset the pause button, let's also look at resetting our priorities. Let's key in on building strong relationships with family, neighbors, staff members, strangers, and God.

RALLY RENO  
COUNTY

# MATCH DAY

— Tuesday, May 5 —  
*24 hours of online giving*

On the next page is a form that you can return to the Hutchinson Community Foundation with your gift for Sunshine Meadows.

**Mail checks to: Hutchinson Community Foundation, PO Box 298, Hutchinson, KS 67504**

OR go online at <https://www.ihearthutch.org/index.cfm> and click on Sunshine Meadows to make a gift by credit or debit card. (This portal is not active until May 5.)

# Giving can still happen!

Memory Care Neighborhood took advantage of the warm weather to enjoy a little party outdoors in their garden. Everyone delighted in the warmth, breeze, light, and blue skies.



**John Gumpfenberger goes for the hoop, while Edith Schiefelbein soaks up the sun, looking sweet in her stylin' hat.**





## Giving Form for Cash or Check

Donor Name(s) (to appear publicly) \_\_\_\_\_

First & Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Partner/Other First & Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Comments/Special Instructions \_\_\_\_\_

- Anonymous
- Anonymous to organization – but please send a gift receipt!

### **Donate to the following endowment funds** -Matched from a \$60,000 local pool

*Please write donation amount on the line next to the fund*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| \$_____ Big Brothers Big Sisters of Reno County          | \$_____ Hutchinson Symphony Association         |
| \$_____ Boys & Girls Clubs of Hutchinson, Inc.           | \$_____ Hutchinson’s Historic Fox Theatre       |
| \$_____ BrightHouse, Inc.                                | \$_____ Interfaith Housing & Community Services |
| \$_____ Buhler USD 313 Education Foundation              | \$_____ Mennonite Friendship Communities, Inc.  |
| \$_____ Cause for Paws                                   | \$_____ New Beginnings, Inc.                    |
| \$_____ Children’s Emergency Shelter Home, Inc.          | \$_____ Rise Up Reno Prevention Network         |
| \$_____ City of Hutchinson Animal Shelter                | \$_____ Radio Kansas                            |
| \$_____ Dillon Nature Center                             | \$_____ Salvation Army of Hutchinson            |
| \$_____ Family Community Theatre                         | \$_____ Stage 9                                 |
| \$_____ Food Bank of Reno County, Inc.                   | \$_____ Strataca                                |
| \$_____ Haven Schools Education Foundation Inc.          | \$_____ <b>Sunshine Meadows Retirement</b>      |
| \$_____ Hospice & HomeCare of Reno County                | Community                                       |
| \$_____ Hutch Rec Foundation                             | \$_____ TECH, Inc.                              |
| \$_____ Hutchinson Art Association, Inc.                 | \$_____ The Nature Conservancy in Kansas        |
| \$_____ Hutchinson Friends of the Zoo                    | \$_____ The Volunteer Center – RSVP             |
| \$_____ Hutchinson Meals on Wheels                       | \$_____ United Way of Reno County               |
| \$_____ Hutchinson Public Schools                        | \$_____ Wesley Towers, Inc.                     |
| \$_____ Hutchinson Regional Medical Center<br>Foundation |   |

**Mail checks to: Hutchinson Community Foundation, PO Box 298, Hutchinson, KS 67504**

**Make checks payable to Hutchinson  
Community Foundation**

**Total Donation: \$\_\_\_\_\_**

## EXTRA-SPECIAL THANK-YOU'S:

- To the many people who created and donated masks for the staff and residents of Sunshine Meadows
- To the many people who dropped off food, snacks, and supplies for both residents and staff members
- To those who sent cards, postcards from our website, and email messages to our residents
- To our many prayer warriors, some whom have even walked the entire campus, praying for each resident and staff member, for the hedge of protection.

THANKS TO YOU ALL!

*~We're better together~*



We're proud of the caring nature  
of our staff and their determination to  
see our residents through this  
tough time safely.

**Sunshine Meadows in Buhler: shining through.**

**Sunny's Café** is working on a facelift during the shutdown,  
& will be even better when it's time to reopen!

**We'll keep you posted!**

Psst!

At the end of the day,  
what really matters is that  
your loved ones are well,  
you've done your best,  
and you're thankful for  
all that you have.

We'd love to share this newsletter with the rest of your family! Due to costs, we don't mail the Sunny Side, but we DO email it. If you'd like to include a friend or family member in the email list, please send the name and email address to

[fund@sunshinemeadows.org](mailto:fund@sunshinemeadows.org)

Likewise, if you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, please let us know.