

A close-up portrait of an elderly man with white hair and glasses, wearing a red and blue plaid shirt. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is dark and out of focus, showing some green leaves.

# **WILLOW BROOK** *Reflections*

Volume 36 Number 3 | Autumn 2014

*Bill Ingalls, resident of  
Willow Brook  
Christian Home*

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# Father's Day

by Larry Harris, CEO

I am a child of the '60s. I came of age in the era of *Gunsmoke*, *Andy Griffith*, the Kennedy and King assassinations, and that wretched little war in Vietnam. Ah yes, Vietnam. The draft. That dark cloud of dread that hung over my high school. Some of my buddies were shuttled off to that calamitous conflict and compelled to do things no teenager should ever be forced to do. But I moved on to college. When the draft finally snared me, the war was winding down, and I flat out missed it.

But enough of this talk about war and unpleasant memories. Let's get on to happier stuff. As is true of most eras, nothing defined the '60s like its music. I'm talking The Righteous Brothers, Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, Elvis. Motown was a nation unto itself, with The Temptations, Gladys Knight, Marvin Gaye, and Stevie Wonder (hey, I remember when "Little" was his surname, do you?). At my boyhood home in southwest Missouri, my brother and I kept our car radios pegged to clear channel WHB in Kansas City, 150 miles to the north. A good chunk of their playlist was that chocolaty smooth, mellow Motown.

From time to time even now, you can catch Motown tunes pumping from my car stereo. I guess they will always be a part of my life, which brings me to Father's Day 2014. That warm May evening, I joined my family at a Columbus restaurant. We hugged and dined and laughed. We talked and teased and reminisced. As the evening wore down, Father's Day cards came out. I read the Hallmark sentiments, but lingered on the words that mattered – the hand-penned notes of love. When I slit open the card from our 29-year-old Stephen, what fell out but two tickets to Aretha Franklin. R-E-S-P-E-C-T Aretha! Motown's Queen of Soul Aretha! My son wanted to take me to her Ohio State Fair concert later in the summer. If those tickets had been a pair of solid gold bricks delivered



Larry Harris, CEO  
lharris@willow-brook.org

straight from Ft. Knox, I wouldn't have prized them as much as those two slips of paper.

When that August evening finally came (I mean, really, I had been like a kid marking off the days 'til Christmas), we entered the fair grounds and walked past the open-air sheep pavilion on our way to the concert hall. Hundreds, maybe thousands, of sheep were all talking at once. It sounded like an arena full of political conventioners biding time before the president's speech. Baaaa, waaa, baaaa – hundreds of humanesque voices were fused into a massive livestock cacophony.

We turned down the midway and pushed past huts pitching funnel cakes, doughnut burgers, and deep-fried Oreos. Pass, pass, and pass.

We worked our way to the Celeste Center, wedged into a couple of seats, and in no time found ourselves screaming a welcome to the Queen herself. With the band blaring a fanfare and her fans roaring at decibels rivaling an airliner's liftoff, Aretha cautiously moved to center stage with an escort at her arm. Pancreatic cancer two years ago left her physically depleted, but it surely didn't depreciate her lungs. For 90 minutes, she belted out her

trademarks – *Chain of Fools*, *A Natural Woman*, *Until You Come Back to Me*, and – what else? – her signature anthem, *R-E-S-P-E-C-T*. She even chanted a defiant taunt to the cancer she had defeated.

Near the concert's end, in mid-song, my son leaned over and said, "Happy Father's Day." This, my son we almost lost eight years ago in a terrifying ski accident; this, our son now pledged to marry his love, Kristin. When I think of how he nearly was swept from Janet and me on that Colorado slope, we embrace each day with him as the gift it is. Thank you God.

We exited the arena into the last light of a dying day, and traced our entrance path in reverse. The food huts were glaring but settled, the crowd had thinned, and we passed the sheep barn now with lights dimmed, its sheared guests blanketed and bedded down for the night, with only an occasional bleating call and response. The sheep were tired and sleepy, and so were we.

Goodnight sheep. Goodnight midway vendors. Goodnight dear son of mine.



## George's Jobs

George Kannapel, a three-year resident of Willow Brook Christian Village, has had some pretty exciting, tension-filled jobs.

He and his wife, Louise, grew up and were married in Palmerton, Pennsylvania, in the Pocono Mountains.

George attended Penn State and graduated from West Point with a degree in mechanical engineering. He worked for Air Products alongside NASA as a cryogenics engineer during the infancy of the space program. His employer supplied fueling systems for weather, commercial, and spy satellites and transferred fuel to launch pads. Later in the 1960s they built simulators for the Apollo space program.

George was part of the team that made Alan Shepherd the first American to go into space, put John Glenn into the first orbit of the earth, and landed two men on the moon.

When an oxygen tank exploded on Apollo 13's way to the moon, causing reduced power, loss of cabin heat, shortage of water, and a critical need to jury-rig the carbon dioxide removal system, astronauts went into the Houston simulator and recreated the conditions astronauts were experi-

encing in space in order to figure out how to get them safely back to earth.

Later, he worked on the Great Lakes Water Quality Initiative and Great Lakes cleanup, then as a consultant to small companies and individuals and as a trainer for tax preparers.

*"We were good buddies, and this is my job."*

During those years Louise focused on raising their three children, Keith, Lori and Gwynn.

"We did a lot of stuff together," says George. "I have been with her my whole life. We've been married for 61 years and have known each other for 70."

Their family traveled and played during those days, skiing when they lived in Minnesota, rafting, boating, and spending time together. In 2003, about the time George retired, Louise was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease. She got lost, and strange things started happening around the



*George and Louise Kannapel*

house. Now deep into Alzheimer's, her speech may be unintelligible, but she continues to respond and be personable to him.

"She has been my partner. She raised the kids while I traveled all over the world. She was there during good and bad times, and she did most of the work."

Louise has spent the last several months in Passages, the memory care wing of Willow Brook Christian Village, while George underwent some surgeries. "My goal after I complete rehabilitation is to get her back home with me," George continues.

"We were good buddies," he remembers, "and this is my job. It is my time to help her through the rest of her life. She did her work all those years, and I need to do my work now."

This may not be the most notable job in his varied career, but it is without a doubt a very important one. And it speaks volumes about his devotion to the love of his life.

## Willow Brook Christian Home Chosen for Scripps Study

The Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University, one of the nation's foremost gerontological research centers, has selected Willow Brook Christian Home as a model to study leadership practices in nursing homes. They were looking for skilled nursing and rehabilitation facilities that achieve and maintain consistently high scores in resident and family satisfaction while providing different levels of person-centered care.

Scripps is conducting site visits and staff interviews to understand how organizations put their management strategies into day-to-day practice.

Willow Brook is both proud and humbled to be asked to participate in this study, and eager to share what we do so successfully.

# *Tribute Gifts*

## Memorial Contributions

### July 19 – September 24, 2014

#### **Donald Almendinger**

Bruce & Barbara Reiersen

#### **Richard C. Atkinson**

Carol A. Roden

#### **Robert "Bob" Beem**

Bruce & Barbara Reiersen

#### **Robert P. Berwanger**

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## Willow Brook Christian Communities

Delaware, Ohio

### Willow Brook

### Christian Village

100 Willow Brook Way South

Delaware, Ohio 43015

Phone: (740) 369-0048

- Independent twin-single homes and apartments
- Assisted living
- Memory care
- Skilled nursing
- Rehabilitation
- Adult day care
- The Courtyard Restaurant

### Willow Brook

### at Delaware Run

100 Delaware Crossing West

Delaware, Ohio 43015

Phone: (740) 201-5640

- Independent twin-single homes and apartments
- Transitional apartments
- Assisted living
- Memory care
- Corporate offices
- The Water's Edge Restaurant

Worthington, Ohio

### Willow Brook

### Christian Home

55 Lazelle Road

Columbus, Ohio 43235

Phone: (614) 885-3300

- Skilled nursing
- Rehabilitation
- Assisted living
- The Grapevine Grill

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*The background photo is  
presented in memory of  
Mildred Cornwell, former  
resident of Willow Brook  
Christian Village.*

*Tribute  
Gifts*  
made to honor  
the living

#### **Phyllis Chucta**

Teresa Ryan

#### **Delaware Run Residents**

Joy D. Lackey

#### **Harry A. Humes**

97th Birthday

Corinne D. Esau





*Bob Tannehill and Babs Tull*

## Love is in the Air

Two Willow Brook Christian Village residents tied the knot this summer. Barbara Tull and Robert Tannehill have both been long-time members of the Delaware community. They knew of each other for years, but they never met. Both were involved in community activities and both worked in education, Babs at Ohio Wesleyan University and Bob at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio.

Babs was the daughter of three generations of Presbyterian missionaries; Bob is the third generation of Methodist ministers. Both raised their families (Babs had five children and Bob three), and eventually each moved into a twin-single home at Willow Brook Christian Village.

Babs lost her husband in 2004 and then served two terms in the Peace Corps in Thailand and the Philippines. Bob's wife passed away last year, after they had been living at Willow Brook for two and a half years.

Bob and Babs sat at the same table during lunch one day late last year and got to talking. They discovered many shared interests. Both love great books, sharing thoughts and ideas, and history. "I was impressed with his volunteer activities," said Babs, "and he was physically in great shape because he walks a lot . . . so we began walking a lot together."

"Babs is unique, and fascinating, and lively, and stimulating," says Bob. "She talks more than I do, but she also listens."

But it was the birding trips and love of nature that turned their friendship into romance. Over the next

few months they made several trips to watch the spring migration and participate in the annual bird count out Bab's back window at Willow Brook.

After making what for many family and friends was the surprise decision to get married "at our age," they went into full gear planning their wedding. An important feature of the wedding was to plan events to bond their two families. "It was a spectacular success," they agreed.

They were married in September, in the MTSO seminary chapel, with just their immediate families present. Daughter-in-law Anna Huckabee Tull blended snippets of their new life together into a song entitled "Come, Take a Walk with Me." Dinner at Slate Run Preservation Park followed.

"We are on a continuous honeymoon, from Amish country last month to the mountains of North Carolina this month, to southern California next month," says Bob. "Reorganizing our homes and lives takes a fair amount of energy." But both agreed that it has been an adventure.

Babs and Bob are not the first couple to meet and marry at Willow Brook, and we doubt they will be the last. Whispers about several others on campus come from every direction. Who knows? Love is in the air.



## A Quilt for Kids 'n Kamp

Delaware Run quilters have created an entry for the Kids 'n Kamp quilt auction in Columbus. Made from the creators' scraps into a spider web pattern, the quilt will be auctioned off on October 23. Kids 'n Kamp is an organization that offers support to families affected by childhood cancer.

The quilters who sewed the entry are Gladys Dillemoth, Ann Hopkins, Nancy Hutchison (in the photo above), Arlene Shoemaker and Lela Weston.



**Foodie Road Show** – Willow Brook chefs have taken their skills out to the masses this summer. In the last issue we told you about The Home's great showing at the Worthington Chamber of Commerce's Taste of Worthington competition. Pictured above left, director of culinary services John Lindeboom presented attendees of the Council for Older Adults Rock the Boat event with ocean appetisers. With him are staffers Becky Gerhart, Heidi Reed, and Julie Bardelang. On the right, Augustino Antonio and Jon Andersen serve an incredible salmon dish to a guest at the Columbus State Taste the Future event. Folks who attend the festivals leave with the knowledge that people who live at Willow Brook do indeed eat very, very well!

## Willow Brook Chef becoming an Authority on Warren Harding

Jon Andersen, a 13-year veteran chef at Willow Brook, is becoming a recognized authority on President Warren Harding's administration. Jon graduated from Baldwin-Wallace College in 2007 while working as a cook at Willow Brook. He pursued a double major in history and education.

"I always loved history and wanted to teach," says Jon. "But jobs are scarce, and history teachers are the first cut in times of budget trouble."

In the meantime, Jon has been promoted twice in Willow Brook's culinary program, and he now is second in command at Delaware Run. "I have grown to love the culinary arts, and I feel that I am making a difference for a good cause at Willow Brook," reflects Jon.

He found a way to pursue his historical interest while working in a Willow Brook kitchen. "My wife, Jess, and I like to visit random historical sites on my days off." They went to the Harding home in Marion, 20 miles north of his place of employment.

"I asked the site manager if she needed help," says Jon. "I volunteered for a year, leading tours and helping with outreach and educational programs."

He since has joined the staff part-time, and is the only staff member focused on researching one of



*Jon Andersen at work in the Delaware Run kitchen*

America's most controversial presidents. Harding, one of six presidents from Ohio, served from 1921 to 1924. His administration was plagued with rumors and scandals, including the infamous Teapot Dome Scandal.

In his research, Jon has pored through records and documents. He says, "In some respects, I feel Harding has gotten a bum rap. He balanced the budget and created the Veterans' Bureau. I'm not so sure some of the scandals were actually scandals."

"I love the historical research, and hope to do some writing on Harding," says Jon. "But I also love working for Willow Brook. So I plan to continue a dual track of cooking and working at the Harding Home."





## Willow Brook Artists and Writers Tops in State Competition

That Willow Brook is home to talented and creative people is hardly news to the folks who know them, but we have further proof: Nine of Willow Brook's 20 regional winners in the LeadingAge Ohio Art and Writing Competition went on to win awards on the state level. Not only that, Willow Brook took home a highly disproportionate share of ribbons in total! The artists were honored at a reception in the Summit Room of Willow Brook at Delaware Run.

### Here's our roster of state-level winners:

- Dianne Almendinger took first place in the Fine Art I category
- Gladys Dillemath took first place in Large Quilted works
- Ann Hopkins took first place in Small Quilted and honorable mention in Large Quilted works.
- Catherine Palmer came in second for Non-fiction
- Brenda Spradling received honorable mention in Non-fiction
- Nova Weller came in second for Computer Art
- Delaware Run assisted living artists took third place in the Special Cooperative category for their clay fairy village.
- John Russell received honorable mention in Woodworking for the ship above.



*Willow Brook Christian Home nurses Emah Kaloko, from Sierra Leone, and Nyama Kassubia, from Liberia, are two among dozens of immigrants serving at Willow Brook. Workers from other lands find a warm welcome at Willow Brook.*

# Reflections

Willow Brook Christian Communities  
100 Delaware Crossing West  
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*Autumn Sunrise at Delaware Run*

*photo by Delaware Run resident Nancy Townley*