

## Celebrating seniors' wisdom & accomplishments

National Senior Citizen's Day is Friday, Aug. 21. This day of celebration, first proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations on Dec. 14, 1990, is an opportunity to honor senior citizens, recognize their contributions and raise awareness of issues that may affect seniors as they age.

A senior citizen is someone who is 65 or older, born no later than 1955. This means they are at least old enough to remember where they were when John F. Kennedy was assassinated. Somebody in their late 80s may remember Pearl Harbor, "a day that lived in infamy."

As for centenarians? They lived through the Roaring '20s and came of age during the Great Depression. (See page 4 for PPH's two newest centenarians.)

The knowledge and wisdom that a senior citizen can offer a younger family member, friend or acquaintance is invaluable. Some younger people tend to think they know everything there is to know and give off an aura of invincibility, but if they are thinking several steps ahead, they'll take their youthful enthusiasm and combine it with the advice of an older, wiser counterpart.

Being a senior also means senior discounts — a free donut at Dunkin' with the purchase of coffee, or riding SEPTA at no charge.

The majority of PPH's residents and even some of its staff members are senior citizens.

Marge Jacoby works part-time at PPH as a Community Liaison. She meets with and interacts with various people and organizations outside of PPH, most notably hospitals and physicians, informing them on PPH's services.

She's adjusted well to not being able to make in-person visits as a result of COVID-19. Marge uses Zoom on a regular basis for remote meetings.

Marge notes that while she knows she isn't young, she doesn't necessarily feel old.

"I don't feel like an old person. I'm still doing the same things I did when I was 40," she said.

Alpha Manor resident Darrah Degnan has learned to find happiness in the "here and now," not so much seeking out something that isn't already in front of you.

"Happiness is not dependent on external circumstances of your life that are not in your control. It's de-

pendent on finding purpose in the circumstances given," Darrah said.

Darrah also mentioned the importance of community, specifically her involvement in PPH and the Medical Mission Sisters.

"Both of those have been sources of joy," she said.

And for those who aren't seniors? Reach out to a senior in your life on Aug. 21. It could be a relative, a friend or a neighbor. Stop by, say hello and wish them a happy National Senior Citizen's Day — don't forget to observe proper social distancing precautions — or pick up the phone and give them a call.

You never know, you might learn something new or gain a new perspective.

And sometimes it's just a simple reminder that we all need to hear every now and then.

"Live every moment to the fullest, because you never know what life will bring. And smile," Marge said.

***If you're a PPH resident who has accomplished something remarkable in recent years, and you'd like to broadcast it, please contact REACH editor Mike Berman at 8003 or [mberman@pphfamily.org](mailto:mberman@pphfamily.org).***

### *In This Issue...*

- PPH Rocks
- Honoring Anthony Manzo
- New Guardian Angels and new centenarians

# PPH welcomes new VP of Finance & CFO

In November 2014, Christina Knapp attended PPH's annual Benevolent Care Gala. While at the event, a photo was taken of her and her boyfriend, Jayse. She liked the photo so much — they were well-dressed and had huge smiles — that she kept it framed on her work desk.

Well, almost six years later, not only is she married to Jayse, she is now PPH's Vice President of Finance & CFO! Christina succeeded John Dubyk, PPH's new President & CEO.

That photo is a reminder of how she came "full circle" in her career and life over the past few years.

Christina grew up in the Mayfair section of Northeast Philadelphia, attended Our Lady of Ransom and Archbishop Ryan High School. She graduated from LaSalle University, majoring in Accounting and Management. She received her MBA in Health Care Administration from Gwynedd Mercy.. And that is not

all — she is also a Certified Public Accountant.

Christina worked for 5-and-a-half years at Pennswood Village in Newtown, Pa. She was also an auditor at Baker Tilly, which is PPH's financial statement audit firm.

Christina is currently enrolled in the Larry Minnix Leadership Academy, a program from LeadingAge that enhances the leadership skills of not-for-profit leaders within the LeadingAge community.

Having taken on leadership qualities has helped her take on the challenges that COVID-19 has brought.

She also mentions that people have stepped up all around, whether it is lending a helping hand, a window decoration or one of the many decorated rocks that have been found around PPH's campus. (See page 4)

"Seeing people come together, whether it's an organization or every

day people in the streets, doing various things to help others," she said.

Christina **Vice President & CFO** hopes to bring **Christina Knapp** "new, innovative ideas," to PPH. With her previous audit experience, she will utilize what she learned from the successes of other senior living communities.

Christina lives in Bensalem, Pa. In her spare time, Christina enjoys traveling with her husband. She has recently been to Europe, Bora Bora and many of the Caribbean Islands. She is interested in fitness, as well as personal growth and development.

As for her time so far at PPH, she felt welcomed almost immediately.

"Within a few days I felt like I have already been here for a long time," she said.



## Business as usual for new Administrative Assistant

Please welcome Ronald Barras, PPH's newest administrative assistant. If you have been to the Business Office, you have likely already met Ron, maybe when you needed change or assistance mailing out a package.

Ron runs the PPH Business Office every weekday morning. You can find him helping residents mail items, set up payments, and sell stamps or just to name a few.

"The residents at PPH have been friendly, sweet, warm and welcoming" he said. "It's been great so far."

Ron grew up in the Mayfair section of Northeast Philadelphia, attended Saint Timothy Catholic Church, moved to Bensalem as a teenager and attended Bishop Egan High School (now Conwell-Egan Catholic

High School) in Fairless Hills.

Ron moved back to Mayfair in 1989 with his wife, Kathy. He has three daughters, and six grandchildren — 12-year old and nine-month old granddaughters, and four grandsons between the ages of the two girls.

He worked for PECO, Aegon, Colonial Penn Life Insurance and Wawa.

Ron enjoys playing soccer and watching the Philadelphia Eagles, but his favorite hobby is running, which he took up later in life.

After dipping into his grandchildren's candy in 2011, he stepped on the scale, did not like the number he saw, and decided to make lifestyle improvements.

First he started eating healthy, then he started walking, which eventually led to running. These changes

resulted in Ron losing 75 pounds in a little more than a year.

Running led to a 5K, a 10K, and on Nov. 9, 2017, he ran the Philly Marathon. Ron ran the 26-mile race, and immediately afterwards went to the hospital to greet his newborn grandson! He says that will always be one of the most memorable days of his life, a day where everything came full circle for him.

Ron is glad he joined PPH and is looking forward to doing business with residents.

"The most rewarding thing for me is having a job where I can help people and put a smile on their faces," he said.



**Admin. Assistant**  
**Ron Barras**

## New Resident

★ Joseph Nally recently moved into Gateway Manor from the Spruce Hill section of Philadelphia. Joe grew up in the Kensington section of

the city, and attended Northeast Catholic High and Community College of Philadelphia. He worked as a physical therapy aide. Joe's hobbies include biking and art work.



# John Hunt is always thinking of you

By Lawrence H. Geller

Alpha Manor resident

The dining room is a favorite destination here at PPH, not just because we have to eat, but because of the availability of gourmet choices on the menu.

You'll find butternut squash, cream of spinach and turkey vegetable soup, followed by prime rib of beef, cranberry glazed chicken or a succulent slice of salmon.

The spark behind these daily meals is chef John Hunt, who has been leading a skilled, dedicated crew of dining specialists here since 2015, and has been with PPH since 1992 in a few separate stints.

Some people fall asleep counting sheep. John counts new recipes, and credits one of the great, international chefs of the world, the late Joël Robuchon of France, as his mentor. But, first, he says he had a good start in his youth.

"Both my mother and grandmother were not just good cooks," he said, one afternoon while relaxing in an empty dining room. "They were great.

I didn't realize how great they were until I got older and came to realize what cooking was all about."

John's career "got cooking" at the early age of 12 when he found a job as a dishwasher in a restaurant on Bustleton Ave. He quickly got approval to try his hand at making sandwiches, and came up with some new tastes.

"My dishwashing days were over," he said.

Mistakes along the way? "Oh, I had a few" he chuckled. "Like the time I put some steam clams on the stove and forgot about them. "That was not good."

After graduating high school, he had a three-year stint at Bob's Village Tavern, eventually rising to position of assistant chef.

With his increased experience, he "found the confidence to open up my own restaurant business for the next several years."

But the gasoline crisis in 1990 coupled with a deep recession hit many small businesses hard, and John, like many others, was forced to close.

A challenging opportunity then presented itself in 1995 when Vedars, one of the finest restaurants in the city emerged from bankruptcy. John helped build the business back up.

"That was a very satisfying experience," he recalled.

He is quick to admit he stands on the shoulders of many he worked with and for in his career. But the greatest credit goes to the aforementioned Robuchon of France.

"Our house was destroyed by fire many years ago — no one hurt, thank God. The only thing that survived was the Robuchon Recipe book I had stored on a top shelf. Whew! My work bible."

As for favorite dishes of PPH residents?

"Duck breasts and crab cakes," he replied quickly.

He has many ways to make the

crab cakes. One of the best came from one of Philadelphia's great restaurants for almost 40 years, Le Bec-Fin (1975-2012).

On a tour of the huge, spotless kitchen, he was quick to point out that "the food the residents get is part of a team effort," with special praise for cooks Richmond Morifah, Darren Cameron, and Tawunn Pinkney.

When not wearing his chef's hat, John is husband to Karen Hunt, a registered nurse, and mother to their five sons, "who always has dinner ready when I come home from work."

However, he is quick to point out that "Thursdays are family night," and he cooks up one of his Robuchon dishes.

"They keep coming back," he smiled. "I must be doing something right."

He then got up to do what he loves best and said simply, "I am blessed."

**Editor's Note:** After this story was written, John announced that he will be retiring in September. PPH would like to wish John all the best, and thank him for his many years of dedication and delicious meals.



## Special Delivery

*PPH would like to thank American Heritage Credit Union for donating 140, level 3 gowns to our PPH nurses.*

*A special thank you goes out to account manager and PPH's rep from AMHFCU William Quinn for personally delivering the gowns on July 16.*





# Pathways welcomes its two newest centenarians!



PPH has two new centenarians! Jean McGovern turned 100 years old in June and Harold Weiss turned 100 in July. Both Jean and Harold live in Pathways.

Jean and Harold both received a Certificate of Recognition from Senator Christine Tartaglione, celebrating the significant milestone of turning 100 years old. Congratulations Jean and Harold!

There are currently 12 centenarians living at PPH.

## PPH Rocks

PPH residents and staff are finding many of these decorated rocks around our beautiful campus.

Director of Recreation Therapy Ginny Maciocha estimates there are approximately 100 rocks throughout the community.

The culprit/artist who has been painting and placing these rocks is unknown, and it's even rumored that more than one person is responsible!

See how many rocks you can count next time you're out for a walk this summer!

You can also find more photos of these rocks on our Facebook and Instagram pages.



**Just a few of the many-rocks that have been found around the PPH campus.**

## Volunteer of the Month Bernice Segal

Congratulations go out to Alpha Manor resident Bernice Segal, PPH's "Volunteer of the Month" for August 2020.

Bernice has been a PPH volunteer since 2017.

She is a pleasant and dependable assistant in the Gift Shop. Bernice is always willing to help fill in shifts for others when necessary and always with a smile.

Thanks so much Bernice for being such a nice addition to our volunteer program.



For volunteer of the month nominations, contact Carol Cherrington at 8027 or [ccherrington@pph-family.org](mailto:ccherrington@pph-family.org).



# Celebrating outgoing President & CEO Anthony Manzo



Anthony L. Manzo

In Deepest Appreciation for 25 years of service at The Philadelphia Protestant Home 1995-2020



PPH's longtime President & CEO Anthony Manzo retired on June 30. Left, is a gift he received from PPH, thanking him for his more than two decades of service to the community. Top right, is a citation from State Representative Jared Solomon, showing appreciation for Anthony's distinguished record of service. Bottom right, is a "Manzo Way" street sign, now located



behind Lawndale Manor, also a gift from PPH.

## Show off your unique masks

Alpha Manor resident Paul Hedges poses with his golf mask — and awesome shirt!

If you are a PPH resident or staff member wearing a unique mask, be sure to send us a photo or ask REACH editor Mike Berman to take your photo. He can be reached at 8003 or mberman@pphfamily.org.



## Cornhole



PPH would like to give a special thanks to Ron and Jean Pleis, longtime friends of PPH, for donating two beautiful cornhole boards marked with our PPH logo! Residents have enjoyed playing every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon outside in our courtyard.



## Employee of the Month Jasmere Morrison

Jasmere started with Dining Services as wait staff in June 2014. She was transferred to Security Department in March 2019.

She has been a great addition to the team. Her courtesy and patience with the residents have been appreciated greatly. She is always willing to help and does it with a smile! Congratulations Jasmere! Thank you for doing "Whatever it takes"



For employee of the month nominations, contact Janice Aouta at 8193 or jaouta@pphfamily.org.



# Two more added to the Guardian Angels club

Congratulations to PPH's two newest Guardian Angels: Francisca Fernandes of Chapters Nursing, and Phyllis Pedrego of Dining Services.

Francisca was recognized by Jennifer Feingold, a former Chapters resident's family member; Phyllis was recognized by PPH residents Anna and Dave Morrell.

A Guardian Angel donation is a meaningful way to express your gratitude for a special PPH caregiver or other staff member who made a difference in your life or the life of a loved one.

*"Francisca was able to connect easily and gently with my Uncle Elliott since his arrival at PPH in the Chapters program. Elliott's aphasia made his communication very difficult and challenging. Francisca was patient, compassionate and encouraging to Elliot, which made him laugh and smile. Elliot would light up when he saw her moving around the unit doing her work and would say to me, "There she is" with a smile. Francisca is compassionate, conscientious and cares deeply about her work and the residents." – Jennifer Feingold*

*"During mine and Dave's trips for lunch, Phyllis always provides excellent and thoughtful service. She ensures our comfort is a top priority and her care and compassion is a source of comfort for us here at PPH." – Anna and Dave Morrell*



**Former President & CEO Anthony Manzo, Guardian Angel recipient Francisca Fernandes, Vice President of Residential Living & Personal Care Maryann Parisse and Director of Personal Care Nursing Services Sheleana Perez.**



**Alpha Manor resident Anna Morrell and Guardian Angel recipient Phyllis Pedrego.**

To learn how you can make a Guardian Angel gift in honor of a special PPH employee or caregiver, or to view PPH's other Guardian Angels, visit [pphfamily.org/giving/guardian-angel-giving/](http://pphfamily.org/giving/guardian-angel-giving/).

## PPE donated to PPH



**Thank you to our friends at Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce of North America (TCCNA) for the very generous donation of much-needed PPE equipment. A special thank you to their New Jersey Chapter Board President Jimmy Shee and Board Member James Kin for delivering the shipment directly to our community.**

## Local business donates masks for residents



**PPH would like to thank Todd Hesbacher of Home Run Office Products for his donation of 100 masks. These masks were distributed to our residents. Director of Community Relations Bill Conaway accepted the donation on PPH's behalf.**

# NEWS BRIEFS AND EVENTS:

**Scams:** There has been an increase of Social Security scams lately. Be wary of phone calls and emails from those claiming to be a Social Security representative. Do not give out your personal information over the phone or in an email. If you think you have been scammed or an attempt has been made, please contact PPH's Security department.

**\*Independent Living family visits:** PPH opened the campus on July 23 to visitors, but with certain limitations and guidelines. You should have received a letter on July 16 with information on how to set up a visitation appointment. If not, please contact your floor representative.

For Personal Care and Nursing resident families, we continue to monitor and follow the regulations mandated by the Department of Health on when and how we can open our campus to visitors.

**\* Prospective Residents:** PPH is now booking in-person tours. If you know someone interested in learning more about PPH and scheduling a visit, have them give us a call at 215-697-8086 or email [info@pph-family.org](mailto:info@pph-family.org).

**Keeping families informed:** PPH has created a private portal for family members of our residents. This portal will be utilized for all updates that pertain to COVID-19. Since this portal is password protected, have your family or Power of Attorney's email [portal@pphfamily.org](mailto:portal@pphfamily.org) for the password. This portal is only available to families and Power of Attorney of PPH residents, and each update is posted on PPH's bulletin boards.

**How you can help:** To meet the challenge COVID-19 presents, both today and in the future, additional financial resources are needed to support our operations and the direct care staff who are working diligently to care for our residents. Please consider making a gift today.

Your generosity serves the PPH



**Lawndale Manor resident Walter Dec's Ship Collection is on display in the esplanade near Scoops.**

mission to provide quality care in a safe and comfortable environment, particularly during these unprecedented times.

To donate, visit our website: <https://pphfamily.org/giving/donate/>

**Fireworks:** PPH has received numerous complaints from our residents about the neighborhood fireworks in June and early July.

Please continue to report these incidents to our Security department that is monitoring the situation. Director of Community Relations Bill Conaway and Executive Assistant to the President & CEO Kathy Wersinger are working with the 2nd Police District and local politicians to stop the sale and use of commercial grade fireworks, which are prohibited by the Philadelphia Fire Code.

**PPH Auxiliary:** The July meeting of the PPH Auxiliary was conducted on PPH TV. Updates on finances, fundraising, and gratitude activities were provided. PPH's new CEO John Dubyk was welcomed with a "self-care kit" presented by several members.

The August virtual meeting will be held on PPH TV channel 57 on Tuesday, Aug. 11 at 11:30 a.m.

Although Dot's Closet is still not open, items are available for sale to individuals as requested (see members or Patricia Coyne at 8403).

All in-person Auxiliary activities have been canceled until further notice.

**Piano:** Lawndale Manor resident Patricia Coyne will be playing the piano Mondays - Wednesdays, 6 p.m. on PPH TV channel 57; as well as Sundays, 6 p.m. on channel 7.

**Talent Show:** PPH is putting together a talent show in August that will air on PPH's in-house TV. Spots are already booked, but if interested in participating in a potential second talent show, please contact Kathy Nucero at 8505 or [knucero@pphfamily.org](mailto:knucero@pphfamily.org).

Talents may include: singing, dancing, poetry, storytelling, juggling, magic tricks, a short skit or stand-up comedy routine, among many other possibilities.

**Collections:** Do you have a collection you would like to share? We would possibly like to show your collection in the display case next to Scoops. If interested, call Kathy Nucero at 8505 or [knucero@pph-family.org](mailto:knucero@pph-family.org).

Make sure to grab a copy of Gateway Manor resident Mike Fesnak's baseball article.

**Baseball Club:** PPH's Monthly Baseball Club meetings are canceled until further notice.

**Library:** Closed until further notice.

**Wellness Center:** Closed until further notice.

**Courtyard:** The courtyard closest to Scoops is undergoing renovations, which include tree removal, a new irrigation system, a new drainage installation, new plant and sod installation and lighting.

**No August calendar:** There is no calendar insert for this month's REACH. If you are a resident, you should receive a birthday list and an in-house TV schedule. If not, contact Mike Berman at 8003 or [mberman@pphfamily.org](mailto:mberman@pphfamily.org) for a copy. REACH hopes to bring the calendar back in the near future.

*\*If at any point we have a resurgence of positive cases, we may be forced back to tighter restrictions.*



# Reflections

Pastor Jack Price - PPH Director of Pastoral Ministries

We all have to make choices in life about where to place our trust. This may be the purest form of faith—our ability to trust. Trust can mean many things whether the focus of that trust is another person or God. Faith is primarily a matter of trust.

We can ask each other important questions of faith such as: "Can I trust you to give me what I really need for my growth and well being?" "Can I count on you to listen to my story, my life? Really listen and hear?" "Can I trust you to act in my best interest even if I don't particularly like it?" "Can I trust you to remember what I've said I want to do in my life, what I really value, and to hold me accountable for doing it?" "Can I trust you not to walk out on me even when we disagree; even

when I get angry at you or you at me?"

It takes work to be in a relationship. It takes work to be a community and to be in the circle of community, the same way it takes work to grow as a person. It is the work of honesty and risk: the risk telling and hearing truth, and the risk of being wrong. Our future as individuals, as faith communities, and as a human race depends on reaching out across barriers of comfort and familiarity not just to bring new people into our organizations, but to bring them into our lives; to become sisters and brothers with many who are now virtually strangers.

In my life, reaching out to others is a challenge. It's easier to stay inside my comfortable sphere and let oth-

ers come to me. Then, I will decide where they'll fit in my life. But that's not how God's dream unfolds, not how God's purpose for us happens. The circle that matters for all of us is a circle to which all are invited, in which all are needed and all are welcomed.

Edward Markham, a poet, once expressed this radical thought:

"He drew a circle that shut me out  
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout  
But Love and I had the wit to win  
We drew a circle that took him in"

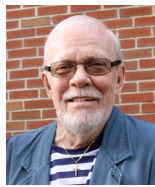
Let this be our mission, our marching orders, the priority of our lives wherever we live: to draw that circle larger now and always.

May God bless us as we journey together.

## Philanthropy Spotlight

### Income for Today, a Legacy for Tomorrow

PPH would like to send our heartfelt appreciation to Rev. Kenneth H. Smith, also known around PPH as Pastor Ken. Pastor Ken, an IL resident and member of the PPH Heritage Society, established a second charitable gift annuity benefitting PPH.



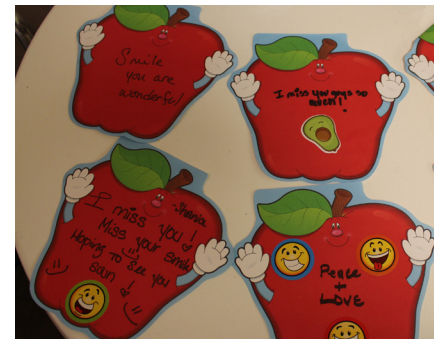
tract in which you exchange a gift of cash or securities for a guaranteed, fixed income each year. It is truly a win-win situation for the donor and for PPH. All donors who make a legacy gift such as a charitable gift annuity will be inducted as a member of the PPH Heritage Society.

Our charitable gift annuity program was created as a service to our many friends who have expressed a desire to make a gift of significance, while still retaining income from the gift during their lives.

A charitable gift annuity is a con-

For a personalized illustration of what a gift annuity might do for you, call Deanna Keough, Director of Development at 8586. For more information on giving and the Heritage Society, visit <https://pphfamily.org/giving/planned-deferred-gifts/>

## Heartfelt notes



**PPH Dining Services staff placed heartfelt notes in to-go bags at the Bistro and Scoops on July 15. The staff misses seeing and interacting with residents on a regular basis and is looking forward to the days of crowds and large groups.**

# We're Family.

## THE PPH MISSION

Guided by Christian values, the mission of The Philadelphia Protestant Home is to provide a caring senior living community that affords its residents the opportunity to achieve their highest possible quality of life.