

SOUTHERN OREGON

FRIENDS of HOSPICE



May 27, 2019



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Celebrating Veterans & Anniversaries

Remembering Veterans' Stories in Their Last Days at Celia's House

by Susan Hearn, Executive Director

Celia's House in Holmes Park opened a year ago May, 2018, and since then we have cared for 118 people. We are honored by serving veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf. We have cared for holocaust survivors, and people in their 90's and 100's who worked as nurses, soldiers, secretaries and pilots in the European and Pacific theaters during World War II. Living history resides with us in Celia's House on a regular basis.

I am fortunate to come from a family of long generations. My grandfather was born in 1896, lived through World War I, II and the extraordinary transformation from horse and buggy to the technological era, reaching the age of 98. He shared some of his stories from his long life with me as a child and young adult. I wish I had asked more questions and spent more time listening to his stories.

During this important holiday, pause to remember those you care about who have passed away. Memorial Day also reminds us to listen to the stories of our family elders and veterans. At Celia's House, a fundamental service we provide beyond dignified residential care to our hospice residents, is the time to generously listen to our residents' thoughts and stories about their unique lives.

In this issue, original board member, volunteer and events coordinator, Trudy



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Duncan, shares her memories of Southern Oregon Friends of Hospice's origins over 10 years ago and a memorable scene this May. We celebrate our one year anniversary at Celia's House and Karen Amarotico, Celia's House Kitchen Manager, offers her first cooking class.

An Event One Year Later

by Trudy Duncan, Founding Board Member and "Volunteer" Volunteer & Events Coordinator

Nearly one year has passed since Celia`s House at Holmes Park has opened, and nearly ten years since the Hospice Unique Boutique (the HUB) opened its doors in Ashland, with the goal of providing support for the, then, four hospices in the Rogue Valley, and the ultimate dream of creating a facility for hospice and palliative care residents.

I feel honored to have served on the original Board of Southern Oregon Friends of Hospice, and serve as the "volunteer" Volunteer Coordinator at the HUB. In our early days, we were all eager to take on any task that would help us to reach our ultimate goal and dream. Thus, I also took on the title of Event Coordinator. Through the years, my job has been to gather a group of dedicated and oh, so talented volunteers who help with various events at Celia`s House and at The HUB.

This early May I experienced, along with others who have been a part of that dream, exactly what we have envisioned for nearly 11 years. It was the second weekend of training for the newest group of resident support volunteers. The soup and salad dinner was set, and the tables were spread around, both inside and out. It was a spectacular evening, the sun slowly descending, offering up that magical light that early evening brings.

On the patio, three residents, along with some of their family and friends, were awaiting the evening meal, so lovingly prepared by Kevin, our cook. With an evening like this, and a setting more beautiful than any restaurant in our area, the group was enjoying, not only the opportunity to visit, but also to take in the splendor of Mt. Ashland, and all the surrounding hills, not to mention the blossoming gardens here at Celia`s House.

As the volunteer trainees picked up their meal, we encouraged them to go out onto the patio to sit. There was a bit of hesitancy, but we assured them that the residents, and those with them, would enjoy their company. **In looking out at the gathering, I was struck that this had to be the best event yet to be held at Celia`s House.** No one had on their Sunday or evening finery, no champagne was being chilled and served, but the atmosphere, and feeling was overwhelmingly what, all those years ago, we dreamed we would witness. The coming together of the living and the dying....all a part of the same family, and all living the evening to it`s very fullest measure.

Afternoon 'Cooking With Love' Class

Celia's House Kitchen Manager, Karen Amarotico, and weekly Kitchen Volunteer, Sue McMurray are planning an afternoon cooking class. The class is an idea they created as a fundraising program to raise money to purchase needed kitchen equipment. The class will include recipes for making an appetizer, a savory salad, and a pie. Wine and non-alcoholic beverages will be served. Please consider joining us for this event. We look forward to seeing you there!

When: **Saturday, June 22 at 2 PM**

Where: Celia's House Carrico Family Sunroom, **217 S. Modoc Ave. Medford**


What: Learn to cook an appetizer, savory salad and a pie

Seating: Limited to **15** participants

Suggested donation: **\$50**

Call 541-500-8911 or e-mail info@sofriendsofhospice.org to sign up



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