

MEWS + EVENTS

FALL 2023



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A Message from Joe Carella



IN SEPTEMBER, I WAS FORTUNATE TO PARTICIPATE in an amazing bike trip through the Bordeaux region of France. Before we started our adventure, my wife Carole and I took a quick two-day trip to Paris to visit one of my favorite iconic places: the famous pyramid entrance to the Louvre. The now famous illustration of the pyramid was created by acclaimed architectural illustrator Paul Stevenson (Steve) Oles. My visit to the pyramid took on a new meaning because Steve Oles also



"I am honored to be part of a special family of supporters. You have embraced our spirit of community-centered living and its power to lovingly bring together all ages."

created an award-winning drawing of our new veranda. And, on October 26, 2023, we were proud to dedicate the new veranda to Suzanne and Buck Frederick. (See pages 3-5.)

Our new Veranda and much-needed heating system this year would not have been possible without your generous support. Unexpectedly, the long-term grant to fund the new heating system never materialized. Even the new veranda was almost delayed due to the skyrocketing cost of construction. Fortunately, generous and increased support from our community of donors allowed us to start and complete these important projects. It is this type of commitment that inspires and energizes all of us.

During a recent fun filled Saturday at the Scandinavian Cultural Center, hundreds of people attended Huldufólk: An Enchanted Dwellings Walk and Celebration. In the days before this amazing event, it seemed everyone got involved building replica enchanted dwellings to share with the public. It was during the event on Saturday a little girl was heard saying that she wanted to "come back for all the events here." Her excitement reinforced the fact that her reaction was one that we love to

get from the public when they visit the Center for the first time. You do not need to be here, but rather, you want to be here... and you want to come back.

In 2024 we need to follow through with our plans to enhance our outdoor and indoor spaces. The veranda and heating equipment are just the beginning. It is important that we create and maintain inviting spaces for a variety of programs and gatherings opportunities for the entire community. Please help us fund other planned capital projects and needs. See opportunities to help on page 10.

I am honored to be part of a special family of supporters. You have embraced our spirit of community-centered living and its power to lovingly bring together all ages.

Many thanks for your kind and continued support. Stay safe and healthy during the holiday season.

Joe Carella, Executive Director

The Search for Truth in Architecture 50 Years of Architectural Illustration by Paul Stevenson Oles

On October 26, the Scandinavian Living Center and Cultural Center celebrated two extraordinary 50-year adventures: an exhibition opening of the architectural illustrator **Steve Oles**, who has beautifully rendered the Scandinavian Living and Cultural Center's new veranda; and our past Board President and 50-year-and-counting volunteer and advocate **Suzanne Frederick** and her husband **Buck**, to whom we dedicated the veranda and named it in their honor to recognize their many decades of extraordinary generosity.

At a beautiful cocktail party in the Nordic Hall, 95 friends, donors, and board members joined us for a warm and sentimental tribute. Steve was joined onstage by his old friend and SLC board member **Marty Lehman**, who as chair of the Building and Grounds Committee kept a watchful and encouraging eye on the progress of the veranda. Thanks to **Sharyn Sooho**, a former SLC board member whose parents were SLC residents for years, Steve created a rendering of our new front porch, which won an international competition and which we were so proud to dedicate to Suzanne and Buck.



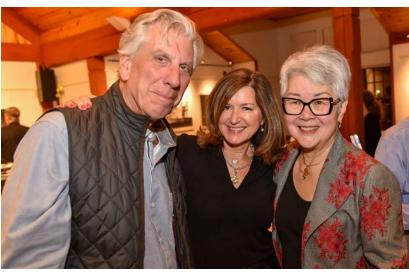
Steve Oles and Tonia Butler Perez



Rob Peirce, Board Member Gabrielle Clemens, Al Clemens, and Alan Sooho

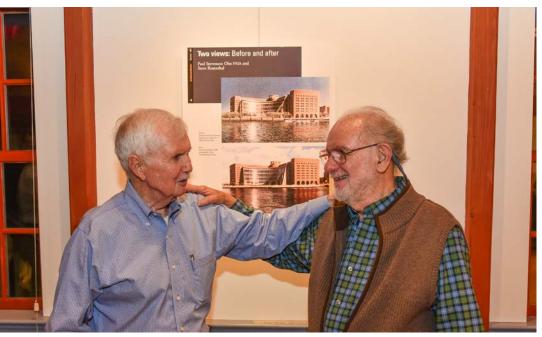


Susana Lannik and Mark Gorstein with Rick Hamilton



Board Member Gabrielle Clemens with her husband Al Clemens and former Board Member Sharyn Sooho

Continued on page 4



In front of images of Boston's Moakley Courthouse, old friends Steve Oles (his before rendering, 1993, is above) and Steve Rosenthal (his after photograph, 1998, is below)



Buck & Suzanne Frederick at the doorway to the veranda dedicated to them for their decades of generosity to the SLC and SCC



Board Member Carol Bergeron



Representative Kay Khan presenting her longtime friend with a certificate from the Massachusetts House of Representatives "in recognition of invaluable service to the Scandinavian Living Center through the rendering of a prize-winning rendering of the Center



Executive Director Joe Carella kicking off the celebration



Susan Thompson (Steve's wife) with Gittan Lehman (Marty's wife and the creator and longtime manager of the Kaffestugan) right behind her



Ulla Gjorstrup, Suzanne Frederick, Marnie Cochran, Eva Boman, and Maria Rene, all members of the SWEA organization (Swedish Women's Educational Organization)



Sharyn Sooho, who originally introduced us to Steve Oles and his remarkable talents, closing the evening with thanks to all



City of Newton Councilmember-at-Large and SLC Board Member Vicki Danberg presenting a City Council Resolution in honor of Steve Oles



Former Honorary Consuls Jacob Friis (Denmark), Terje Korsnes (Norway), and Frank Mead (Sweden)



SLC Board President Joyce Haglund with Elizabeth Finn-Elder of Sallop Insurance



Board Member Marty Lehman and his longtime friend and colleague Steve Oles

Happenings at the Cultural Center

AND JUST LIKE THAT 8 YEARS have gone by with my position as Director of the Scandinavian Cultural Center. This column has always been a fun way to reflect on all that we have done at the SCC over the year, but it feels like it is time for a change in the way we look back. Instead for this newsletter, and going forward, I'll take a deeper look at some of the key events from the past 6 months. Taking a more intimate look on how events come to find a home in our spaces and what it takes to make it happen. I hope you enjoy this new way.

hen I get an email that asks if we'd like to host a U.S. premiere in the Nordic Hall the answer most always will be a resounding "YES!" That's exactly what happened when Eva Skanse of the Aurora Ensemble reached out to me earlier this year. Aurora Ensemble is a classical/early music group devoted to historic Scandinavian music. What they brought to us was titled "The Aurora Ensemble: Midnight Sun Arias and Dance Music from Old Scandinavia" a mid-summer themed program of Scandinavian music performed on historical instruments from the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries. The program would feature a variety of composers and pieces from Sweden, Finland, Norway, and Demark. The works became fully realized with the collaboration of **Bo Andersson** of **Uppsala University**. The Aurora Ensemble would perform the new world premieres of several stunning pieces housed in the Düben Collection of Manuscripts in Uppsala, Sweden. These would include instrumental dance pieces by Andras Düben, a cantata by Swedish noblewoman Johanna Eleonora de la Gardie, and the only surviving piece composed by Queen Ulrika Eleonora of Sweden. The Aurora Ensemble had one stipulation, they wanted this to be free admission so that as many people as possible could see this performance. With a mid-August date, the only time all the artists involved could participate, there was some worry. Would enough people be in the area and not on their summer vacations to attend? Could we cover the costs of paying all eight of the performers the fair wage they so deeply deserve? As with some of our larger events I looked for our community partner, The Village Bank, for financial support. Susan Paley and her team at the Village Bank reviewed our request and replied with a resounding "YES!"

With the full support of our key sponsor in place the musicians rehearsed, and we got ready for the special midsummer event. Any fears regarding attendance were

SCC MEMBERSHIP TYPES

SINGLE \$75 PLUS \$125 **FAMILY \$150** STUDENT \$40 (full time students) Sign up at www.scandicenter.org quickly squelched as the event speedily sold. The Nordic Hall was filled. The concert was a stunning presentation of performers playing instruments we don't often have in the space like the harpsichord, lute and baroque flute, cello, and bass along with two sopranos. It was most definitely a night to remember.







t the end of September, I brought to life a concept I had been thinking about for a while. The event was inspired by the American idea of a "fairy walk". Fairy walks, in more recent years, have popped up all over the country. Events devoted to magical beings and attended by many families. What could be a more perfect fit at the Scandinavian Cultural Center than to celebrate magical beings like that? In every Nordic country there are strong ties to these types of beings be it nisse, tomte, haltija, huldufólk or the myriad other beings. What sprung forth was Huldufólk: An Enchanted **Dwellings Walk and Celebration.**

We chose the Icelandic huldufólk (hidden people) as it has been reported that a great number of Icelanders currently believe in various types of magical beings. We sent out a call for submissions for versions of enchanted dwellings to the community. What we received was beyond any expectations. Many, created by local children, were fully conceptualized in many ways with designated bedrooms and kitchens and so much more. Even staff members of the Scandinavian Living Center pitched in and built their own amazing creations.

As with so many of the weekends since spring the weather did not want to cooperate. With a cold rainy day in the forecast, we made a last-minute decision to move the event indoors. It was all hands-on deck to create a charmed space of the Nordic Hall worthy of the most special creations to display. The space was transformed. Fairy lights, buntings, a table full of offerings, and moss (so much moss) displayed the tiny, enchanted homes and welcomed what would be hundreds of visitors of all ages.

The magic was also on display in the Kaffestugan where one of our team members, Scott, created small domed vignettes for each table and even brought in some of his own Icelandic treasures to adorn the space. Sparkly fairy juice and many pastries were consumed that day! Lise and her team in the Kaffestugan worked extra hard as that day we also took part in All Over Newton's Bakery Crawl. We were thrilled to welcome so many newcomers to what we do on such a special day!

As a component to the celebration, we also scheduled a screening of The



Seer and the Unseen for the adults to bring to light a full illustration about the role the belief of the hidden people plays in today's Iceland. Following the screening we had a Q&A with one of our long-time friends and supporter, Chip Robinson. While in graduate school in Scandinavian studies at UCLA Chip spent half his time in Iceland working with Old Norse, Modern Icelandic, and reading and translating sagas. Then he did research in folklore and the supernatural for his doctoral dissertation. Chip currently works in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures at Harvard University and can often be found in our own Scandinavian Library volunteering on Saturdays. The discussion post film was lively and informative. We could listen to Chip's expertise all day!

/hat you can see from our deep dive is how much work and support is involved in just two events. We couldn't do it without the assistance of community funding and individual donors like you. While these two events cost more than most, the yearly cost of event programming at the SCC is \$175,000. It would be an honor to have you support the work we provide in the form of a donation to the SCC to ensure that we can continue to provide the type of programming you have become accustomed to and to bring more original concepts to life. Please visit www.scandicenter.org and click the "DONATE" tab. Many thanks for your visits and encouragement as I celebrate these eight years. Kerry



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Subscribe to our email list for monthly updates on upcoming events at www.scandicenter.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

February

NATIONAL SAUNA WEEK PRESENTED, IN PART, WITH FINLANDIA FOUNDATION OF BOSTON

April

SWEDISH KURBITZ WORKSHOP WITH TINA RAWS

Welcome to Our New Residents



ELIZABETH CUSACK

Elizabeth Cusack describes herself as a "people person."

She was raised in Nova Scotia, Canada with two brothers and two sisters. As the second oldest child, Elizabeth appreciates the opportunities she had to spend quality time with her family.

After graduating from high school, Elizabeth headed to the United States eager to experience personal growth and new opportunities. She found work as a dental assistant and earned a good living for that time.

Because she volunteered as a librarian in the Boston Public School System, Elizabeth was offered the opportunity to enroll in a degree program at the University of Massachusetts.

Elizabeth married the love of her life in 1956. Together, the Cusacks raised two sons and two daughters and were able to travel extensively. Because she is of Celtic and Norman heritage, Elizabeth especially enjoyed her vacations in Great Britain.

Elizabeth was introduced to the SLC by the daughter of a former resident. She finds her SLC neighbors and staff to be friendly and helpful.



DONALD WALKER

A first-generation Scottish American, Donald Walker was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut and grew up in a family of two brothers and two sisters. He now is the proud father of a son, two daughters, and two terrific grandchildren.

Don enjoyed a long career as vice president of a steel processing company. A Scotsman at heart, Don loves the game of golf, and he takes pleasure in exploring new territory. Trips to England with his family are particularly memorable.

This spring, Don moved to the SLC from Southbury, Connecticut. He feels comfortable at the SLC. "It's a nice place to live."



JUDY WESSELLS

Judy Wessells takes pleasure in helping friends and family feel at home. She began learning the grace of hospitality as a youngster growing

up with her parents, brother, and grandmother in Mt. Kisco, New York, a town north of New York City. Judy remembers the skill with which her grandmother created delicious baked goods in no time flat. Many afternoons, when she picked up Judy from school, her grandmother asked, "What would you like to eat?" Judy would respond, "Lemon meringue pie." And... a pie would be on the table at suppertime. Judy graduated from Pembroke College in Brown University shortly before the women's and men's campuses merged. During the 1960s, Judy managed a 46-bed inpatient unit at Massachusetts General Hospital. She never has forgotten the disconcerting atmosphere that developed on this unit whenever patients in police custody were admitted and were guarded by visibly armed authorities posted outside their rooms...a feeling of big guns in small spaces.

Judy enjoyed a twenty-two-year career with Tufts Health Plan, has traveled extensively in Europe, and appreciates Italian food. She is the loving mother of two: son Chris who lives in San Francisco and daughter Virginia who lives in Newton. Judy has five engaging grandchildren.

Early in 2023, Judy moved to the Scandinavian Living Center with her nine-year-old gray cat named Robert after her older brother.

Business Manager Brooke Cabot introduced Judy to the SLC. Judy is warmed by the sunlight that streams through our building's many windows, and she appreciates our variety of enrichment programs as well as the healthful challenges our Fitness Center offers.

Allison Godsey—Community Partner



TO VISIT NEWTON AT HOME, located in the lower level of the Scandinavian Living Center, one may initially have to ask the receptionist for directions. But after heading down the stairs and following the signs, one enters a bustling office where phones are ringing, staff are busily attending to clients, volunteers are involved, and Executive Director Allison Godsey is thoughtfully engaged in the activity around her.

Newton at Home (NAH) is a non-profit grassroots membership organization whose mission is to enable Newton residents to age at home comfortably, safely, and independently. It provides Newton residents over the age of 60 with access to social, health and wellness services including medical and personal transportation, grocery shopping, friendly visits, handyperson and technology services, trash removal, and decluttering. It welcomes members regardless of income. Forty percent of its budget comes from

donations, sponsorships, and income from fundraising.

Allison, who has been in her position at NAH since February of 2023, is a person who cares deeply about others and is passionate about making a difference. She is enthusiastic about the connections that NAH provides to its members who, in addition to receiving assistance with necessary day-to-day needs, are able to enjoy a myriad of events and outings, book clubs, museum trips, lectures, yoga, and more. NAH has a dedicated team of over 100 volunteers who have provided thousands of service requests, rides, and programs since its inception in 2011.

A native of Northern Virginia, she credits her parents' strong example of service through their work with the Peace Corps and prison ministry for her decision to redirect her career after 10 years in business. In 2018 she received her Master's degree from Boston College School of Social Work where she focused on human services management for older adults.

She previously served as Program Manager of Beacon Hill Village, a nonprofit membership organization in Boston servicing a dozen neighborhoods and enabling adults to optimize their choices for aging in place. There she developed strong partnerships with community organizations and successfully launched a

"Healthy Aging" speaker series with the Boston Public Library.

It was a smooth transition to Newton at Home, a like-minded organization and one of more than 325 villages that have sprung up over the country. It is part of the "Village Movement" which is modeled after small towns of the past where neighbors helped neighbors in order to meet both the practical and social needs of older adults.

Allison does not see aging as a deficit but rather as a driving force towards a better quality of life. She observes that "the pandemic, unfortunately, cast older people in a negative light and put them at risk for not having their basic needs met. We have a whole lot of work to do after Covid-19 to return to the community. The stakes are higher and the needs have increased. Coming out of Covid, people seem to be less vibrant and we have to figure out how to reconnect them with joy." She believes the problem is a "multi-generational endeavor" and that we need better housing, more efficient transportation, and more engaging activities for all backgrounds - that it is important to break down stereotypes between generations in the process.

She is aligned with Joe Carella's philosophy of Community Centered Living as a

Opportunities to Support Our Work

The Scandinavian Living Center is a nonprofit assisted living center taking an inspired approach to elder care. By adopting core Scandinavian principles, we have created a senior living community where individuals from all cultures and backgrounds can lead connected, fulfilling lives. We are committed to empowering residents by respecting their individual needs and providing exceptional care and support. With a cultural center and a variety of amenities and services right in the building, the SLC is a welcoming place for residents and visitors alike. For more information, visit www.slcenter.org

The Scandinavian Cultural Center is a destination for the exploration of traditional and contemporary Nordic culture and complimentary cultural experiences. The Cultural Center is committed to being the premiere hub for Nordic cultural activities in New England by sharing important elements of Scandinavian culture with and providing thoughtprovoking events for residents of Newton and greater Boston. The Nordic Hall at the SLC is our primary performance and exhibition space. For more information, visit www.scandicenter.org

Fund for the Future: long-term capital and program needs.

Subsidy Fund: named for Dr. Erling and Inger Johansen, this fund provides critical support to residents if they become unable to afford their monthly fees (which can total \$200,000 each year).

Friendship Fund: named for Suzanne and Albert Frederick, to support resident and community programs, including classes, trips, lectures, and performances.

Scandinavian Cultural Fund: supporting the myriad programs that run throughout the year for the entire community.

Give a Gift of Cash

To make a gift online, please go to www.slcenter.org and press the DONATE tab.

To mail a gift, please send your check in the enclosed envelope to:

> Scandinavian Living Center 206 Waltham St., West Newton, MA 02465

Please make checks payable to: Scandinavian Living Center or Scandinavian Cultural Center.

Gifts in Honor or Memory

Honor and remember the special people and moments in your life with a gift to Scandinavian Living Center. You can make a gift to remember a loved one, or to recognize the care that a family member received here. You can also honor special occasions like birthdays, weddings, and anniversaries. Be sure to include your name, address, phone number, name of the person or

event being honored or memorialized and the name of anyone you wish to be notified of your gift.

Double Your Donation with a Matching Gift

You may be able to increase or even double your gift's value if your company has a matching gift program. Some companies also match gifts made by retirees.

Donate Stock or Securities

It's easy to transfer stock through a broker to Scandinavian Charitable Society of Greater Boston. Please contact the Executive Director at 617-964-6203 for more information.

IRAs/Qualified Charitable Distributions

You can donate directly from your IRA without ever receiving it as income. That enables you to give the full amount you

withdraw to charity rather than what's left after you pay the individual income tax due on the funds you withdrew resulting in no taxes ever paid on your income.

Planned Giving

Please consider us in your estate planning. You may include the Scandinavian Charitable Society of Greater Boston in your will to have an impact beyond your lifetime. Bequests, charitable remainder trusts, gifts of annuities, and life insurance all make it possible to continue to improve the lives of our community.

However you choose to give, we are deeply grateful for your kindness and generosity. For more information, please contact loe Carella, Executive Director, at 617-964-6203 or jcarella@slcenter.org, or Richard Teller, Director of Philanthropy, at 917-340-9952 or richard@slcenter.org

Van Driver Michael Casale



DO YOU NEED A RIDE?

SLC van driver Michael Casale cheerfully will offer one.

Michael joined our SLC community two years ago following a thirty-four-year career delivering fresh fish for Legal Sea Foods. Michael understands the words promptness, care, and courtesy.

Born and raised in Brighton, Michael has fond memories of days spent in his grandfather's company making wine. Now happily married with a daughter and a son, Michael enjoys spending time with the younger generation of his family.

Michael feels comfortable at the SLC. He'll give you a ride with a smile...and he'll help carry your groceries too.



BALLOON MAKING at our Annual Ice Cream Social in June 2023

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Continued from page 9

means to reduce isolation and loneliness. As she sees it, community connections are the recipe for a natural and healthy quality of life. She enjoys having NAH in the same building as the Scandinavian Living Center because of the sense of engagement when you walk in. She hopes to continue

the shared programming that has occurred with the SLC such as concerts and musical events, some of which have included the Bob Drukman Stars, Music from the Great American Songbook, and the Great American Music Experience presenting The Movie Music of Mr. and Mrs. Danny Kaye. Allison lives in Watertown with her husband Malcom Gay, a journalist with the Boston Globe, and their three-year-old child. She encourages everyone to follow the signs to Newton at Home to stop by and see the great work that it does.

Around Our Neighborhood

TAKE A LOOK AT OUR ROBUST COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING where neighbors from all around continue to enjoy the interactions made possible by the many different spaces, inside, outside, and virtually.





LUAU MINI HORSE







MOVIE night STAFF Appreciation Day

PAINTING



DRUM Alive Visit



CELEBRATING Jess's Birthday



HELPSY Drive



HAPPY Hour



FLOWER Arranging



ANNUAL ICE Cream Social Event



In The News

the green house project to empower lives.

Greenhouse Project Podcast

Joe Carella discusses his unique path to eldercare and the importance of community-centered living. In doing so, he shares a bold prescription for the future of eldercare. the greenhouse project.org/podcast/

MIT Press

Coming in 2024, MIT Press is publishing a book, entitled Longevity Hubs, which includes a series of essays written by people in the healthcare industry. We are proud that our executive director Joe Carella's article, titled Community-Centered Senior Living Works for Seniors and Communities, will be apart of this publication. MIT states "we hope this edited volume will spark a global conversation about how to support wellsprings of aging innovation."

The Boston Blobe

A Globe Opinion/MIT Agelab Collaboration, reprint

Community-centered senior living works for seniors and communities

The objective of community-centered living is to integrate residents into the wider population and to welcome everyone into a life-enhancing assembly.

By Joseph Carella | Updated April 26, 2021, 3:00 a.m.

Fig City News

Fig City News shares with readers the SLC veranda dedication and the opening of SCC exhibit "The Search for Truth in Architecture."



figcitynews.com/2023/10/scandinavian-livingand-cultural-center-new-veranda-dedicatedand-the-search-for-truth-in-architectureexhibit-opening/

CBS Boston

In late October, SCC Director, Kerry Lavin, had the chance to talk to Levan Reid of WBZ | CBS Boston about the unique model at the Scandinavian Cultural Center and Scandinavian Living Center.



©CBS NEWS BOSTON

KERRY LAVIN
DIRECTOR OF THE CULTURAL CENTER

www.cbsnews.com/boston/news/scandinavian-assisted-living-center-newton-massachusetts/

Suzanne Horgan, Fitness Specialist



OUR FITNESS CENTER AND FITNESS PROGRAM CONTINUE TO EVOLVE AND IMPROVE. As we approach winter, I am increasingly aware of slippery walkways. I have created a new class, "Stand Up," specifically focused on teaching skills and strategies for fall prevention. The class requires all participants to stand, shift center of gravity, place a disproportionate amount of weight on one leg, and ambulate through cones in a tricky, YET FUN, fashion!

Our twice weekly Strengthening Class continues. We use resistance bands to condition most major muscle groups. Although this class is fast-paced, I continue to be amazed at the ability of residents to perform the movements with great thought and skill.

In the Fitness Center, we have new yoga mats for those who wish to perform

exercises as prescribed by their physical therapist. I have also added a massage roller, the perfect tool to ease muscle tension. We have new resistance bands and exercise balls on the way! For extra balance work, I have a balance board that residents are welcome to use under my supervision.

Residents come to Fitness for their scheduled sessions beginning at 7:30am. We have some early risers who enjoy tackling their workout before that first cup of coffee! It's a joy to hear "now I'm ready for eggs and bacon" after a solid 30 minutes of work! The NuStep, a recumbent elliptical machine, continues to be among the favorite pieces of equipment. We do have an increased number of residents interested in strength training.

Finally, I believe in the connection between brain health and physical movement. Numerous studies have linked brain activation during exercise to slowed progression of dementia and actual prevention. I emphasize cognitive awareness while exercising. For example, performing movements in a sequence while simultaneously saying aloud "I-2-3 or 3-2-I" ("peanut-butterjelly or "jelly-butter-peanut"!). It's always fun to see what residents create! The more confusing, the better!

We look forward to more improvements over the coming months!

Best in health. Suzanne H.

Celebrating the Memory of our Friends

PATRICIA CHAISSON **PASTOR PHILIP KYLANDER IAMES NOON**

For your convenience, we continue to upload the latest news on our website at www.slcenter.org/news-media/. We also try to include the latest updates in our email blasts and on our Social Media pages!



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