



THE CLARE

CONNECTION



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LETTER FROM KYLE



Kyle Exline, Executive Director



THE CLARE

Gold Coast Retirement Living Your Way

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In January, we celebrated a momentous occasion in The Clare's history - our 10 Year Anniversary.

The celebration included an afternoon champagne toast with leadership and an evening filled with delicious food and exuberant dancing. We even commissioned a local bakery to craft a cake replica of The Clare, a true highlight of the festivities.

Looking back at the last 10 years, I realize how special it is for The Clare to reach this milestone. Getting to this point has required tremendous change, from new ownership and extensive building renovations to updated amenities and increased occupancy.

The one guiding presence through all of this change has been our residents.

The community's original residents, for example, have been through it all. They launched a number of programs and committees, many of which still exist today. They participated in legal hearings as The Clare navigated bankruptcy in 2011. They sought greater transparency as ownership transitioned from the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago to Senior Care Development, and they were here as occupancy soared from 30% to 100%.

As new residents filtered in, they influenced the services we offer and how we deliver them. They presented new ideas for programming and different ways to use common spaces. They drove us to work hard at hiring the right people to staff the community and challenged us to consistently provide quality across the board.

Today, Clare residents continue to motivate us, inspire us and hold us accountable to deliver the very best services and amenities possible. We wouldn't be where we are today without them.

As we move forward in the next few years, more change is inevitable. What people want from retirement communities in the future is going to be entirely different than what communities offer today, and we must always be aware of those desires without losing sight of our history.

Luckily, we can rely on our residents to show us the way. ☺

Kyle Exline

NEWS FROM YOUR COUNCIL & COMMITTEES



Marketing & Communications Committee

Dorothy Pirovano | Chair

Marketing and Communications Committee members discussed how to alert residents to significant outages, issues and problems beyond Odyssey notices. About 65% of residents use Odyssey, but few check it every day, and many do not receive the optional email alerts for new announcements. We recommended that important information be posted in elevators, as well, either in red at the top of the daily activity bulletin or in the frame to the left of the bulletins, temporarily substituting the room listing. Such information might include elevator shutdowns or the closure of a dining venue. **Lori Griffin**, Director of Resident Experience, who oversees elevator communications, agreed that this plan will go forward. ☺



Facilities Committee

Ken Mullin | Chair

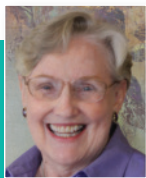
The renovation of the Ambassador Lounge on the 17th floor has been an ongoing agenda item of the Facilities Committee. Here is a brief update on the project.

Construction of the space is expected to begin in early spring and will take approximately 10 weeks to complete. During construction, each morning's continental breakfast and our weekly Happy Hour will take place elsewhere in the building. Stay tuned for updates.

The most significant renovation work will be in the bar area. Storage space

will be installed under the stairway to the 19th floor, and working space behind the bar will be increased and include bar equipment, utilities and trash handling upgrades. Additionally, carpet, floor-to-ceiling window treatments and furniture will be replaced, and the audio system will be updated.

It is important to note that the seating capacity will remain the same, and that the new chairs will have wheels and the new tables will be wheelchair accessible. Wood paneling and artwork currently in place will remain, as well, but wall and ceiling surfaces will be repainted a lighter color. ☺



Health & Wellness Committee

Sheila Rock | Chair

Director of Resident Health Services **Joanne Malleta** and Health at Home Navigator **Colleen Habing** have planned and arranged a number of informative lectures on topics like proton therapy, end of life and the difference between palliative care and hospice. Mark your schedules when you see the various presentations advertised!

Meanwhile, Fitness Manager **Leah Okner** happily announced that residents made 20,700 visits to fitness facilities in 2018! She has now launched a new initiative called "Best Wealth is Health." Residents will receive a prize for every 50 visits to the Fitness Center! The initial prize for residents' first 50 visits will be a Clare water bottle, which will encourage hydration and hopefully reduce the use of plastic cups in the Fitness Center. ☺



Resident Advisory Council

Chris Lyon | RAC President

I want to share a couple of exciting changes to how we conduct Resident Advisory Council meetings.

First of all, each meeting will now feature a guest speaker from The Clare's management team. We recently heard from Security Manager Mark McCarville, who gave an informative presentation on fire safety. Assisted Living Manager Emily Delaney presented in February, sharing what happens when a change in health circumstances warrants moving from Independent Living to The Terraces.

We have also adjusted how we interact with you during meetings. Previously, we requested questions upon completion of the business agenda. Now, we welcome questions throughout committee presentations, while they are still fresh in your minds.

Both changes are the direct result of resident feedback. We always welcome suggestions on how we can improve the RAC meeting experience for you. Keep in mind that we still meet at 3pm on the first Tuesday of each month in the Oxford Room. If you are unable to attend in person, you can watch video of the meetings on Odyssey. ☺

RESIDENT NEWS



From left to right: Fitness Manager Leah Okner, Kelly and Jay Tunney, Jim Buttinger, Bob Day, Barb Arsenault, Lillian Scommegna, Cathy Madayag, Marie-Luce Parker, Carolyn Driscoll, Rosemary Tegano, Honey, Richard Kaczmarek, Adele Wexler, HD Mitchell and Nancy Lee Spilove



Ruth Nelson

Photo courtesy of University of Wisconsin Madison

Hot Chocolate 5K Walk

Chilly temperatures didn't stop this group of residents from participating in The Clare's Hot Chocolate 5K Walk in early November! The goal was to walk a mile and a half south down Michigan Avenue, and then return to the Lobby to warm up with hot chocolate! ☺

Resident Ruth Nelson Establishes Faculty Chair at University of Wisconsin-Madison

Resident Ruth Nelson, who graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1948, wanted to express her gratitude for how education laid the foundation for her successful career. She watched the business world transform before her eyes as she spent many years in the publishing industry.

So Ruth established the Ruth L. Nelson Chair in Business at the Wisconsin School of Business, as announced in November. Anne P. Massey, a professor of Operations and Information Management at WSB, holds the chair for the 2018-19 academic year.

"I've given the gift to express my appreciation for sending me on the road to productivity and a wonderful career," Nelson told the university. "It's nice to be able to say thank you." ☺



Taj Mahal at Dawn

In December, Clare residents **John Clum** and **Walter Melion** took the trip of a lifetime to India, making stops at the Amber Palace in Jaipur and the Taj Mahal. ☺



Riding an elephant to the Amber Palace in Jaipur



Fabulous Agra hotel chefs



Santa visit on a houseboat in the Kelara backwaters



Anne at New York Palace Café in Budapest

Clare resident **Anne van Amerongen** cruised along the upper Danube River to explore Hungary, Slovakia, Austria and the Czech Republic from the end of October into November. ☺



A stop in Cesky Krumlov in the Czech Republic



The Metropolitan Cathedral of Saints Vitus, Wenceslaus and Adalbert in Prague



The boat on which Anne cruised the Danube River



The town of Linz in upper Austria



Carol Feiser Laque

ARTIST PROFILE

Clare Poet Carol Feiser Laque Draws Inspiration from 'The Silent Music of the Mind'

*C*lare resident Carol Feiser Laque's grandmothers opened up the world to her: the world of domesticity and the world of the arts.

"At 9 years of age, my grandmother sent me, '101 Famous Poems,'" she says. "From that moment, I knew I would be a poet and poetize. My other grams taught me to make delicious fruit pies (the crust, you know)."

Carol was first published in the 6th grade, which began what would become a lifetime of 20 volumes of poetry. After success in three small arts presses, she published her own work to have artistic control of materials, cover art and layout.

Mainstream publishers required book tours and self-promotion. But Carol believes poetry should be free. Like Petrarch, she never wanted to merchandise her mind. Besides, she considers herself a "homebody."

"Poetry is alive when it honors the individual's vision and voice," she says. "Poetry by committee is as processed as Velveeta."

To support her poetry habit, Carol taught comparative literature and the poetry workshop at the University of Cincinnati for 36 years. Marriage and motherhood were joys that nurtured and inspired her. And community service provided a means of sharing the art of poetry with runaway and homeless children. In fact, she founded and led a workshop at Lighthouse Youth and Family Services in Cincinnati for 20 years.

In 1975, Carol founded Circumference Press, her own non-profit, independent press for new poets that recently celebrated 40 years in 2015.

"From chapbooks and anthologies to broadsides, I felt the necessity to operate outside the system," she says. "I was unwilling to compromise aesthetic standards. Every decision involves a price. I have no regrets."

Projects she founded also include The Cincinnati Writer's Project - Poetry Workshop, which was free to all. She led it for 35 years.

*"Writing poetry is musical,"
Carol says. "It celebrates the
silent music of the mind and the
world of nature. A poem mimes
the chime."*

*“The Clare community is an ongoing artistic collaboration,” Carol says.
“What is better than poetic jamming with your community?”*

“Circumference Press published a chapbook of patients’ poetry at the state mental hospital, Longview,” she recalls. “The writer’s workshop named the book, *Longview*.”

Above all else, poetry is Carol’s calling, and she always aims to honor it.

“Writing poetry is musical,” Carol says. “It celebrates the silent music of the mind and the world of nature. A poem mimes the chime.”

‘Artists Never Retire’

Carol’s retirement from the University of Cincinnati did not represent a true retirement from teaching or poetry. She went on to poetize full time, mentored poets in workshops and enjoyed family life.

Early retirement also afforded Carol the opportunity to continue her work with Circumference Press, publishing special projects. For example, her local Kroger grocery store cashier confided to Carol that she had written short, poetic fables and stories. The result: Circumference Press published *The Book of Fabulories*.

“My goal is to get the first poem out loud, in print, of poets who have never seen themselves in print,” Carol says. “Every voice is worth hearing. Everyone, no matter who they are, is a poem in progress.”

Carol brought this practice to Chicago, which she calls “The City of Open Arms,” when she moved to The Clare in 2011. Here, the inspiration of having poets write about art resulted in collaboration between a fellow Clare resident and members of an early Clare poet’s workshop.

“The Clare community is an ongoing artistic collaboration,” Carol says. “What is better than poetic jamming with your community?”

Since 2011, Carol has volunteered and conducted poetry workshops in Chicago elementary schools and held a poetry reading at The Museum of Contemporary Art and The Clare. Since her move to Chicago, she also published two poetry anthologies: *Poetize* and *Mother of Pearl*.

The second, *Mother of Pearl*, contains a poetic drama of Hester Prynne, the Mother of Pearl. It was nominated by two of Carol’s editors in 2017 for the 2018 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry.

“I felt honored and humbled, and my muse danced,” Carol says of the nomination.

Today, Carol continues to mentor aspiring poets, and has never stopped writing herself.

“Each poem is a place to live until my imagination evicts me,” she says. “That’s why my Ohio license plates say, ‘Poetize,’ which is a verb, after all.” ☺



Photos by Claire Laque Marshall

Chicago A.M. Let Morning Come

*A midnight lake breaks blue.
Dawn scribbles violet,
orange, scarlet,
Grey scatters my walls
Pianissimo please
Let Morning Come.*

*Coffee twisting sheets, news,
rolling over
Cabbies stretching, yawning
honking scores
Sirens smear children
rubbing gritty eyes
Doors open hallways -
running to catch -
Busses schools commuters
- keeping time.
The elderly stir as slowly
As the homeless
Let Morning Come.*

*Lakeshore drivers lurch and
stop a red tide.
Tongues waggle, mumble as
pounding
Dreams and feet - stories
wet
Rain and fog - Chicago has
no syntax.
Windy so hang on. The Side
Walks.*

*Naked or bundled, sing
where you are.
The Downbeat then -
“forever yours” - “love” -
Especially to strangers.
Then the salutation — “dear”
Not a single stray cat.
Let Morning Come.*

AROUND THE CLARE



A gorgeous floral arrangement made specially for the occasion by resident Virginia Wolff

The Clare celebrated its 10-year anniversary on Thursday, January 10! An afternoon reception featured remarks from leadership and a champagne toast, while an evening celebration included a festive spread of food and a five-piece band with a dance floor.

We are proud of how far we've come in 10 years, and we can't wait to see what the next 10 years have in store!



The Clare in cake form



Marilyn and Bob Day



Executive Director Kyle Exline offers his remarks about The Clare's 10-year anniversary.



Suzanne Turner, Chris Lyon and Sally Kinnamon



A special chocolate sculpture created by Executive Chef Hagop Hagopian



Sally Park and Elizabeth Grady



*Marilyn Schmitt, Dr. Leon Diamond,
Ron Orbaugh and Agnes Hamos*



Steve Andres and Ruth Nelson



Cliff and Pat Terry



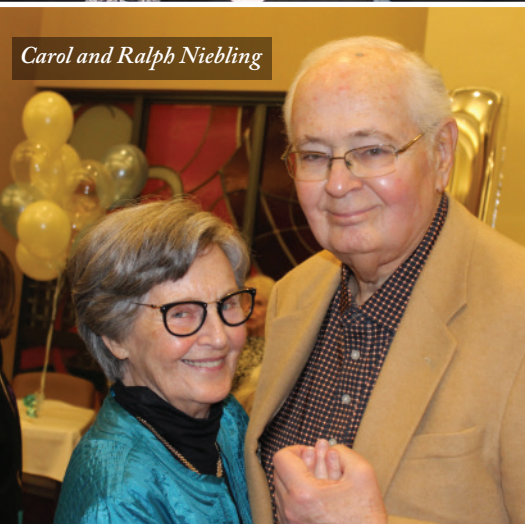
*Joy McDevitt and Director of Resident
Health Services Joanne Malletta*



*Roddie Rosenthal, Joan Green,
Lillian Scommegna and Marilynn Garfin*



Phyllis Berning, Kathryn Brown and Karol Moller



Carol and Ralph Niebling



David and Carlotta Maher



*Denise deFiebre,
Senior Vice President of
Acquisitions with Senior
Care Development,
raises her glass for the
champagne toast.*

RESIDENT PROFILE



Harlean Barth: Clare Resident Blends Rural Upbringing, City Life in Teaching Career

Clare resident Harlean Barth has lived and worked in two contrasting environments: rural Illinois and urban Chicago.

Harlean attended a one-room schoolhouse in Iroquois County until third grade, and retired from teaching at a private school in Chicago at the age of 77. Her family once owned a farm, and she now resides at The Clare in Chicago's Gold Coast neighborhood.

"It's a completely different world between the city and the farm," Harlean says.

Throughout her life and career, those two worlds both challenged and inspired her. No matter where she was, though, her creativity in the classroom and passion for teaching pushed her forward and brought her students success.

Life on the Farm

Harlean launched her teaching career at a small school in Iroquois County - the one she attended after the one-room schoolhouse, in fact. Meanwhile, her first husband worked as a farmer and was part of a grain elevator business.

Originally, Harlean was able to teach with just two years of college under her belt. As she had her three children, she began taking classes at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, Illinois, where she earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees.

In the classroom, Harlean demonstrated unique ways to engage her students. She taught ballet and tap dance and played the piano. She brought in performers to put on shows. Even as her own children went through school, she and her husband couldn't help but propose innovative ideas for programming, such as a trip to the planetarium, for instance.

Her teaching method resulted in receiving the Governor Thompson Master Teacher Award in 1984.

"In smaller communities, it was quite an honor," she says. "It's not because I was any better than anybody else - it was just that I got attention for my techniques."

Life in the City

At 45 years old, Harlean's first husband passed away. At this point, she felt it was time for a change of scenery.

"I knew I couldn't farm and make a living," Harlean says. "I had to make a new way for myself, so I moved to Chicago."

She was first offered a job at an experimental school on the South Side of Chicago. The concept was to revolutionize the learning experience and have everything offered be top-of-the-line, from French lessons to computers in every classroom.



*“I wouldn’t be here at The Clare if it hadn’t been for Chicago City Day School...
It was wonderful. I could use my talents.” —HARLAN BARTH*

But Harlean found she didn’t have the resources and support necessary to be successful with the students. Her approach to teaching was criticized, as well.

After one year, she moved on to Chicago City Day School, where she remained for more than 30 years. There, her creativity shone.

As a major Chicago Cubs fan, Harlean incorporated this passion with learning, starting a one-week camp over the summer called Brains and Baseball. Throughout the week, students would write letters to sports journalists at the Chicago Tribune, read coverage of Cubs games, create a newspaper of their own and learn percentages through batting averages. The camp concluded with a trip to Wrigley Field for a game.

Additionally, Harlean focused her social studies curriculum around Chicago history and included various field trips into her lesson plans. She brought her third-grade students to Chinatown, Swedish Village and other locations to understand the diversity of Chicago and its vibrant atmosphere.

“You can’t learn anything better than going on a field trip,” she says. “I can’t tell you about Chinatown unless I go to Chinatown. When you go there, you eat the food. You talk to the people. You really understand.”

When she turned 65, Harlean moved from the classroom setting to a position where she offered remedial assistance to students who were below grade level. Whatever the subject might be, she would work with them to get them up to speed.

More than anything, Harlean appreciates the way Chicago City Day School believed in her and her teaching capabilities.

“I wouldn’t be here at The Clare if it hadn’t been for Chicago City Day School,” she says. “It was wonderful. I could use my talents.”

When Two Worlds Collide

Over the years, Harlean never forgot her farm roots. And even early on in her teaching career, she saw the value in exposing her students to city life.

“When I taught on the farm, I brought my students on a trip to the city,” Harlean says. “They had never ridden a train. Some had never been on an escalator.”

Her city students, on the other hand, had never seen a farm.

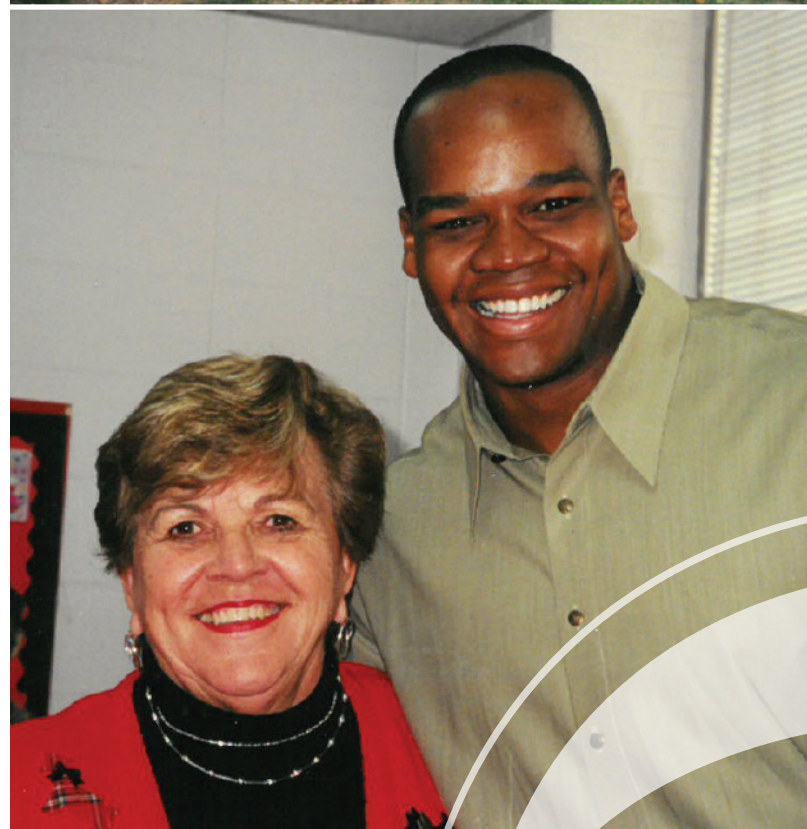
So, Harlean arranged a pen pal program between her third-grade class at Chicago City Day School and students from her former school. The country kids spent a day visiting their pen pals in Chicago and experiencing the city, and the city kids then headed down to explore a dairy farm, a chicken farm and a hog farm.

Such connections between her rural upbringing and her new life in the city led to quite a successful, fulfilling life. Even so, Harlean remains humble about her lengthy career, attributing much of it to simply loving what she did.

“I think I was in the right place at the right time, a lot of times, and I loved my work,” she says.

Harlean loved her work so much that when the new school year began this past fall, she felt a pang of longing to be in the classroom – even three years into retirement.

“It’s such a good feeling when you see a child blossom,” she says. “As a mother, I could see it with my children. But as a teacher, you could see it with the whole classroom of kids.” ☺





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