



Activity Corner

Ok, I know I keep telling you that spring is on the way but I know for a fact it will be this month!! It just has to be!! We are starting out this wonderful month of May with an outing to School Sisters of Notre Dame! They have invited us to hear an amazing story about the orphan train. Their guest speaker, Renee Wendinger, shares the story of her mother who was one of the 250,000 children that boarded that train in New York City to be sent to the Midwest. It was the largest mass migration of children in history! After the presentation they will be serving cookies and coffee! For entertainment this month we have **“Melodies in Motion”**, a group of ladies who dress up in clown outfits and entertain you for an hour. They’ll be doing a little magic, singing a little, telling a few jokes and just acting silly!! Then the **Garage Band** is back on their 5th year anniversary! Our “Oak Terrace” was the first place they played when they started 5 years ago. So come wish them “Happy Anniversary” and have a piece of cake! We will also be having Mary Anne Dundas back to sing & Dale Martell playing the fiddle and singing! Loren Wolfe will be here to perform during the celebration of all the birthdays in May! For our special **Mother’s Day Tea Party** we’re lucky enough to have a little help. One of the classes at East High School (Youth Service Learning) has volunteered to send a group of students to share in the fun! The following week the students will be back to help us with a craft! It’s always nice to have outside groups who love to visit and share in your lives come into Oak Terrace! We’ll also be doing a couple of activities that we haven’t done in a long time.... like watching a movie with popcorn & going to Sibley Park to enjoy the outdoors

- 1st Outing to School Sisters of Notre Dame- Orphan Train speaker/ cookies and coffee!
- 3rd Autumn Lane Birthday party with Beth Wilson
- 4th Summertime Spelling Bee with prizes
- 8th Shopping trip to **Walmart** & **Dollar Tree**
- 10th **YOGA** with Julie
- 10th “Melodies in Motion”/
Clowns
- 11th Mary Anne Dundas/ Karaoke
- 14th Garage Band- their 5th year Anniversary - Cake
- 15th Mother’s Day Tea / Readings on Mother’s Day
- 17th Movie and Popcorn
- 21st Dale Martell on Fiddle / Singing
- 22nd Summertime Crafts with high school students
- 24th **YOGA** with Julie
- 24th Beth Wilson’s sing along
- 28th Joe Martell on Guitar
- 29 B-day Party with Loren Wolfe Assisted Side
- 31st Out for lunch
- 31st Outing to Sibley Park

May 28th is Memorial Day

***Just to let you know: Our trip to **Walmart** is earlier in the month this time so keep an eye out for the date!

MAY IS

NATIONAL SMILE MONTH



so don't leave your apartment without one!!
The Take away: Turn that frown upside-down if you want to make some friends! Studies have found that people are more willing to engage socially with others who are smiling. Smiling is an easy way to boost your mood, and be healthier.

***Don't forget to say
"Happy Birthday" and
smile***

to our OT residents who have a



Birthday!!!

Judith Harrington	1 st
Ernest Zuelch	1 st
Loretta Becker	3 rd
Julie Giedd	4 th
Jerome Theissen	17 th
Gary Beckmann	26 th
Roland Milow	29 th



"Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal."



Here's another *Oak Terrace*
Guess Who????



*****April's Guess Who was
Alice Schroeder*

Happy Mother's Day!

May 13th

Moms and Grandmothers.....

For all your *love* and *kindness*,
For all your *tender care*,
For all the *joy* that it has bought,
Just knowing you were there.
For all of this and so much more,
A card for you should bring,
A wish for every *happiness*,
A *thanks* for *everything!!!*

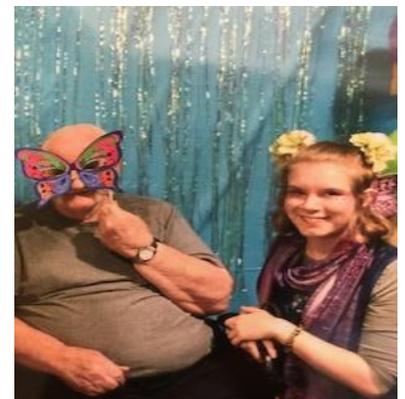
Mother's Day Word Scramble

hcrubn _____
lcbetreae _____
wlfoser _____
loev _____
rerunut _____
adunsy _____
fkaetrbsa _____
ecka _____
trsdahaug _____
fialmy _____
gifts _____
otmshre _____
nssso _____
pgsnir _____



It's time again to watch the courtyard garden bloom and grow. Planting season has officially begun!!!! **Feel free to pull any weeds you might see!** The kitchen staff will be using some of the fresh herbs & spices from the garden in their recipes. Yum!! The grill is out and our spring/summer menu is ready. Look for lots of fun foods and wonderful desserts

"SPRING MASQUERADE" With MSU students



Aino Lavoie

Aino was born in **Estonia**, located on the Baltic Sea! She was born on her Grandparents farm in a sauna. In those days every farmer had a sauna on their farm. She had 2 sisters, but one died when she was 3 years old, from diphtheria. Aino went thru 6 years of grade school in Valta, by the border of Lathia and then to middle school. When Aino was 14 years old, she and her Mother had to leave the war torn Estonia and flee because the Russians had invaded, captured, and sent many of their countrymen to Siberia. Then the Germans captured the Russians, but the Russians returned to Estonia again and that's when Aino and her Mother fled! Aino recalls when the Germans came the Jews would run into the forest by her Grandfather's farm. The Germans had dug trenches and they would shoot the Jews so they would fall into these trenches.

While in Lithuania, Aino and her mother had a chance to take a ship to Germany or to travel by train. Not fond of the water, Aino pleaded to take the train. They later heard the ship went down! When Aino and her mother were traveling through Poland they were captured by the Nazi soldiers and transported into cattle cars to work camps during World War II. The captives were separated; the Jews were sent to concentration camps and the non-Jews like Aino and her mother were sent to the work for the Germans! Nazi soldiers shaved their heads, which she said was not pleasant, they were given very little to eat; usually one meal a day of soup, potato peelings and a slice of bread. They lived in barracks and all they had to cover up with was one blanket. While in captivity, some of the prisoners were teachers from Estonia who taught the Estonian children in the camps. The captives were working for the Germans, so they received advanced warning- the sounding of sirens-anytime they were in danger. When the sirens sounded, they'd hide in a bomb shelters. Aino recalls the last time the sirens sounded, she and her mother went to the bomb shelter, but no one was there. They couldn't figure out why they were the only one's there. Then they found out that it was the end of the war and the sirens were going off in celebration. **The Red Cross** welcomed people of all nationalities into their camp, including Aino and her Mother. They provided them with food, helped them find family and helped them to find sponsors and to relocate to another country and a new lease on life. They tried to get ahold of family, but they didn't have any luck. Little did she know that the rest of her family was being held captive in Siberia! Her only family was her Mother and she died before they could resettle! Through contact with an Orthodox priest and his family while housed by the Red Cross, Aino had hoped to travel with them to California, but a legal adoption didn't happen fast enough and she had to stay behind. At the age of 19, Aino left Germany

via ship, bound for Boston, Mass. From there, she took a train to Chicago and then to Minneapolis where she met Charlie Sumption of Ruthton, MN. Sumption and his wife, Anna, sponsored Aino's trip & brought her to their home in southwest Minneapolis. Aino found work and soon found a husband; the Sumption's son, **Kenny!** Aino and Kenny settled in 1960 in Russell, MN. where they raised their 3 daughters, Rita, Lilah and Peggy. Aino had learned some English while growing up and she quickly caught on to the American way of life. Her Swedish mother-in-law taught her how to cook and bake; she was so intrigued by wringer washing machines that she insisted on doing it herself instead of teaching her 3 daughters. Her Swedish Mother in law came here to the U.S. when she was 19 yrs. old as well. She also taught Aino to butcher chickens, pluck them and to can them! Aino was a hard worker, after her husband died; she worked 3 jobs to provide for her girls. She worked as a meat tester and then at a turkey plant. Her daughter recalls one Christmas they had meatloaf for supper and red jello with whipped cream. Her Mom didn't have any money for Christmas gifts for the girls, but gave them a package of mints. Aino's daughter said that was the best Christmas. We didn't care; we just wanted to be with family!

Aino married her neighbor, **Bob Lavoie** who was also widowed and had 4 children. They were married for 40 years until he passed away in 2012! Aino's 3 daughters grew up hearing her stories, so when Lilah was working in Pipestone and a group of international guests visited the college campus, she asked offhand if any of them were from her mother's homeland of Estonia. She was excited to find an Estonian in the group. After telling him the story of her mother, he vowed to return home and help her search for any family that may have returned following the war. He found that he only lived 30 miles from the girl's great uncle Paul and great aunt Heine and when he told them Aino was still alive and in America, they just cried and cried. Aino received her first letter from her Estonian family shortly thereafter. In the summer of 1994, Aino and her 3 daughters travelled to Estonia for a visit. Aino got to see her sister for the first time in 50 years. They had just 3 hours to visit and Aino brought pictures and gifts to share. Her sister died 6 months after their visit in 1995! Their cousin arranged another trip for them to Estonia in 2000. Pioneer Public Television aired Aino's story and Aino was able to go to the Fagen Fighters World War II Museum in Granite Falls

At the age of 87 Aino sold her home and moved to a town home in Edgerton, then to Jasper to be by her daughter Lilah. She moved to Oak Terrace in Dec.!

Aino has had a remarkable life and is just happy to have survived it all and is so very thankful for her 3 daughters! There's nothing like family!!

