

ST. COLUMBAN'S

www.stcolumbanshome.org

On the Lake

RETIREMENT HOME

Administered by the Columban Sisters

Our Waterfall Garden: A Tribute to Life

A stunning waterfall garden is the focal point of the recently renovated back entrance of St. Columban's on the Lake Retirement Home. The waterfall garden is the finishing touch to this area and features a beautiful statue of the Blessed Mother cradled by two magnificent waterfalls, complete with streambeds and a glistening pond. Beautiful and fragrant landscaping completes this tranquil area.

Water is considered the symbol of life. Our waterfall garden is a fitting tribute to a much-loved member of our St. Columban's on the Lake Retirement Home family. Dolly Dion



The Waterfall Garden of the Blessed Mother is the focal point of the renovated back entrance.

passed away in the early spring of 2005. She was a dedicated volunteer who had a zest for living life to its fullest.

Dolly assisted our Activities Director, Jane Ball with numerous functions and activities. She could be found filling display cabinets in our coffee shop, assisting with entertainment

programs or crafts, visiting residents and partaking in the numerous games and functions in the home. For many years, Dolly and her husband Ed did the weekly shopping for our residents. Dolly was a familiar face in the kitchen when we hosted bingo. Holidays were always special when Dolly

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A Year of Celebration

By Sr. Corona Colleary,
Administrator

Every year brings special memories and causes for celebration and remembrance.



This year is special for numerous reasons. On June 4, we will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Columban Sisters Annual Spring Festival. The proceeds from this annual event support the world-wide missions of the dedicated Sisters. This year is also a cause for celebration as our Capital Improvement Campaign draws to a close. The funds from this campaign have enabled us to make improvements to the building and grounds, thus improving the quality of life for our resident family for years to come.

We also celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the arrival of the Columban Sisters in Western New York this year. The first Sisters came to Silver Creek in the cold winter month of December 1930 to assist the Columban Fathers in running the junior seminary. The work and outreach of the Sisters to the community fostered a mission which has enabled them to offer love, support and care to many in the Western New York area.

Come join this year of celebration with us and know that you can be part of our future in caring for those in need.

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and Ed visited and helped us celebrate with the residents.

When Ed heard of our dream for a waterfall garden, he knew this was something Dolly would truly love. Through his financial support, the waterfall garden is now a reality and a fitting tribute to Dolly's spirit.

We all mourned the loss of our beloved Dolly and we truly miss her presence. Dolly's spirit is kept alive in how we look at life and see the beauty in all things. Her quick wit, sense of humor and nurturing nature have impacted the lives of many. Our waterfall garden

could not be a more appropriate tribute to a loving woman who was full of life and energy and sparkled for all to see. Dolly loved her diamonds, but her love and outlook on life shone much brighter than any carved and faceted stone.

We are thankful for the gift of Dolly and Ed in our lives and for touching our hearts and spirits in more ways than can ever be mentioned. The next time you visit St. Columban's stop by our waterfall garden to see a tribute in the purest of forms.

Note: Eddie Dion passed away on February 9, 2006



Sister Corona (l) thanks Dolly and Ed Dion for all their support

Capital Improvement Campaign Reaches Final Phase

The final phase of our Capital Improvement Campaign is now underway. The two-year campaign began in October 2004 and is an endeavor to raise \$500,000 to make much needed improvements to the building and grounds. To date, a little over three quarters of the goal has been raised.

Improvements include renovation of the parking lot and driveway, construction of a covered canopy at the rear entrance, continuation of the garden walkway and landscaping and meditation areas to complete the back entrance. The installation of a new wireless emergency call system and an efficient, up-to-date



The renovated driveway entrance offers a graceful welcome to St. Columban's on the Lake Retirement Home.

emergency generator are also realities thanks to the generosity of benefactors to the Capital Improvement Campaign. The new generator insures that power, heat and water will be available regardless of a loss of power. Our residents have the reassurance and comfort of

knowing that their basic needs will be met and that their quality of life will not be altered. All improvements are planned with the purpose of maintaining or improving the quality of life for our resident family for years to come.

Additional improvements now being planned include the replacement of windows, rebuilding exterior staircases and replacing deteriorating sidewalks. Plan on being part of this important Capital Improvement Campaign. Your helping hands can make a difference in our service to the elderly men and women in our area. For additional information call (716) 934-4515.



The renovated back entrance complete with circular driveway and canopy entrance.

Spring Festival 50th Anniversary Celebration Has Special Prizes And Surprises For Everyone

Annual festival has provided a half century of support for Columban Sisters worldwide missions.

On Sunday, June 4, 2006 the Columban Sisters will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Annual Spring Festival on the sprawling grounds of St. Columban's on the Lake Retirement Home. The festival has changed a lot from the early days when the Columban Fathers were running the junior

seminary on the site with the support of the Columban Sisters. Sr. Helen Ryan, who was at the first festival remarks that the support from the community is the one constant that grows stronger every year.

Since the festival's beginning in 1956 under the direction of Sister Clare Farren, and later,

with the late Sister Francis Borgia McMahon, the event has evolved to offer something for everyone. Today there are a wide variety of booths, games of chance, food and activities. The Mission Booth is a long-standing tradition offering information on the missionary works of the Columban Sisters to those less fortunate in Chile, China/Hong Kong, England, Ireland, Korea, Myanmar (Burma), Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Scotland and the United States. The Mission Booth also offers unique hand-crafted art and gifts. All proceeds from the annual festival support the work of the Sisters in distant lands and remote areas around the globe.

Join Our Golden Anniversary Celebration

At this year's festival, you'll enjoy one of the season's first Chiavetta's Chicken Barbeques. Try your luck on one of the many exciting games of chance. Stop by a large array



Irish dancers will be among the entertainers kicking off the 50th Spring Festival.



Cooking up 50th Anniversary memories.

of booths including homemade crafts, gifts, baked goods, plants and a variety of food. An assortment of games for the children will keep them entertained and delighted. A guided tour of the beautiful retirement home will be offered from 1:30 – 4:00 pm. There will be a \$50 giveaway every hour in honor of our 50th Anniversary. The day will culminate with the awarding of \$7,000 in cash prizes, including a trip to Ireland or cash equivalent.

Dedicated Volunteers Make It Happen

The Spring Festival requires year round planning by the staff at St. Columban's and over 250 volunteers. This year's Festival coordinators, Sylvia and Dick Clarke and chairpersons, Judy and Vince DeJohn and Alice and Bill Harford, along with Sr. Corona, Sr. Fran and Becky Dix, headed up the 50th Anniversary Festival which has been two years in the planning stages. The numerous volunteers are organized into teams,

synchronizing their responsibilities to make sure that parking, ticket sales, food and beverage service, along with a myriad of other activities go off without a glitch. This year's festival is dedicated to the support of those less fortunate and to improve the quality of life of those in need. So mark your calendar now for Sunday, June 4 and be a part of a half-century tradition in Western New York!



Sunday, June 4, 2006
Noon - 6 pm

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\$7,000 in cash prizes including a trip to Ireland or cash equivalent

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\$50 cash giveaway every hour

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Chiavetta's Chicken Barbeque

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Retirement Home Open House & Guided Tour

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Gift, craft & food booths

*

Rides & children's games

*

Antique car display & special surprises

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St. Columban's
on the Lake Retirement Home
Route 5,
Three Miles West of Silver Creek, NY
716-934-4515

Volunteers Honored At Recognition Day Event



Volunteers enjoy the program at Volunteer Recognition Day 2005.

“You’re a shining star!” was the theme for Volunteer Recognition Day at St. Columban’s on the Lake Retirement Home on October 20, 2005. Volunteers, residents, staff and guests gathered in the residents lounge to honor the many volunteers who support the mission of love, care and supportive services to the residents who call St. Columban’s home. More than 75 were in attendance for the program which featured a musical salute to the volunteers from the resident chorus. Volunteers were recognized for their dedicated service, gifts of time, commitment, love and talent. Volunteers offer support in culinary arts, music, exercise, transportation, shopping, gardening, in-house activities, visiting with residents and

many other programs and services. Their assistance is critical to the day-to-day running of the home.

The shining star theme was personalized when those in attendance were reminded of what it means to be a star in the eyes of the home. Like shining stars, our volunteers are angels who reach out and touch us with their love, gifts and talents. They leave us with a smile because of their presence in our lives. Volunteers received an ivory pillar star-shaped candle, embellished with the “You’re a shining star!” logo. Those dedicated men and women who have supported the home for ten years or more were presented with a fall floral bouquet and a certificate recognizing years of service.

Theresa Szocki was honored for more than 35 years of service to the home. Following the program, those in attendance gathered for refreshments and the sharing of memories and accomplishments.

St. Columban’s on the Lake Retirement Home is proud of its strong volunteer base and congratulates all those that give of themselves to make a difference in the lives of others.

Volunteers Needed

If you would like to be a volunteer at St. Columban’s, contact Jane Ball (Activities Director) at 716-934-4515.

Diane Czekanski, The Ultimate Shopper

Helping hands are the key to the success of the enormous volunteer base at St. Columban's on the Lake Retirement Home. Diane Czekanski is one such special member of our extended family. Diane has a lot of heart. In fact, she began volunteering on Valentines Day 1996 and assisted our Activities Director, Jane Ball with many in-house activities and programs. Diane also was instrumental in helping to transport residents with special needs to and from doctor appointments and outings. Her caring and nurturing personality enables her to adapt easily to any situation, and her previous background as an RN and experience in caring for the elderly make her a natural in any situation.

In recent months, Diane has assumed the role of resident shopper. On a specific day of the week, she meets with residents and compiles shopping lists of requested items. She visits local shopping centers, makes the purchases and then delivers them to St. Columban's. Diane also insures that all



Diane returns from shopping for the residents.

record keeping is accurate. This monumental task is met and executed with a smile and enthusiasm.

During her free time, Diane spends quality time with Mike, her husband of 33 years and her children Jacob, Adam, Ben and Michelle. Diane is also a Eucharistic minister at St. John Bosco Church in Sheridan. She assists with the church's monthly lottery and lends a helping hand in the office. In addition, Diane is a member of the Sheridan Fireman's Lady Auxiliary and an Election Inspector for the area. Diane loves cooking and gardening. We are thankful for her presence, her talents and her gifts to us all. She is a much loved and appreciated member of our family.

Barbara Brown

On Christmas Day 2005, heaven received a very special gift. Barbara Brown passed away suddenly the morning of December 25. Barbara was a treasured member of the St. Columban's on the Lake Retirement Home family. Employed in the housekeeping department for more than 22 years, she brought a professional work ethic, compassion and dedication to the home and the residents and staff she served. Barbara had a positive outlook on life; she was loving and caring of everyone she



Barbara Brown. "Forever in our hearts."

came in contact with. We will miss her smile and laughter, love and compassion. She will be forever in our hearts and we will carry her spirit with us. We remember her family and thank them for the special gift of Barbara in our lives.



Everyone loves the Columban Sisters Spring Festival.

INSIDE...

*Columban Sisters celebrate
50th Anniversary of Spring
Festival on Sunday, June 4*

(See pages 4-5)

*To add a name to our newsletter mailing list,
call 716-934-4515.*

For more information visit www.stcolumbanhome.org.

*St. Columban's on the Lake
Retirement Home
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Silver Creek, NY 14136*



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