



MILWAUKEE  
CATHOLIC HOME

# FOCUS

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## A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN

Jim and Phyllis Wudi are living proof that sometimes blind dates do work out. They met through friends, when Jim came to town with a friend of his who was dating one of Phyllis' friends. Phyllis wasn't initially interested in going on a date with a young man she didn't know, but then she heard that he drove a convertible and immediately agreed to be his date! That young man turned out to be Jim, and the two will have been married for 60 years in September.

Jim and Phyllis both hail from small towns in northern Wisconsin. Phyllis grew up in Eagle River, but left for Milwaukee after graduating from high school so that she could attend Miss Brown's Business School. She learned secretarial skills at Miss Brown's, and after graduating she worked as a secretary for a law firm.

Jim, meanwhile, grew up in Rib Lake and moved to Milwaukee to find a job after graduating from high school. He worked a short time before serving for four years in the Marine Corps; Jim was stationed in the Pacific during World War II, specializing in marine aviation.

Upon returning to Milwaukee, Jim married Phyllis at Saint Robert's Catholic Church. Phyllis then worked for Milwaukee County and was eventually promoted to be the secretary of County Executive John Doyne, while Jim began school at the Milwaukee State Teacher's College and enrolled in the Army reserves. After he graduated, Jim was called up by the Army and served for eleven months in the Korean War.

While working for the county, Phyllis was attending night school at Marquette University, and after eleven years of part-time schooling, she attained her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. Upon completion of her degree, Phyllis was promoted on the staff of the County Executive, where she worked until her retirement in 1982. Jim, meanwhile, spent 30 years working in the Milwaukee Public School system, 15 as a teacher and 15 as an administrator. His final position in MPS was the principal of Grantosa Elementary School.

In retirement, Jim has remained in touch with his friends from the Marines, and he and Phyllis enjoy attending reunions with the other members of Fighter Squadron 215. Throughout their lives, Jim and Phyllis have enjoyed golfing, reading and entertaining. Since moving to Milwaukee Catholic Home, Jim and Phyllis have remained very active in entertaining their friends. They like to host guests for appetizers in their apartment or dinner in the dining room. Jim especially enjoys sharing his famous appetizers with residents during MCH cocktail parties.

The Wudis are very comfortable in their apartment and enjoy the diverse activities. They particularly like visiting with new friends and staff, who have made them feel so welcome in their new home. To sum up her feelings towards MCH, Phyllis said, "We couldn't be happier here!"



Jim and Phyllis Wudi



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**FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



**Paul Connolly,**  
**Executive Director**

The summer months have brought warm weather and bright sunshine to the Eastside of Milwaukee. The neighborhood seems to come alive during the summertime, and life at Milwaukee Catholic Home is no different.

Residents are frequently seen walking through the neighborhood, enjoying the beautiful view of Lake Michigan or doing a little shopping on Downer Avenue. The recent addition of Whole Foods has become another popular walking destination, along with old favorite Lake Park. MCH employees also take advantage of our great neighborhood, taking walks during lunch and other work breaks. Additionally, residents have enjoyed spending time outside by planting vegetables and flowers in our newly expanded garden adjacent to The Residence parking lot.

This summer residents have enjoyed a new option for enjoying the outdoors, with our Food Service Department offering lunch on the outdoor patio every Friday. Many residents are taking advantage of this service and really enjoy it.

There are of course other opportunities to relax on the patio, as residents often enjoy sitting outside with a good book or socializing over a cup of coffee.

One of the favorite summertime activities at MCH is the annual Patio Pops concert series, held every other Wednesday evening on the patio.

Residents also have the opportunity to experience all the fun summer activities offered in Milwaukee by taking bus trips on planned outings. Recently a large group of residents attended a Brewers' game, and it was so popular that they are planning to go to another game soon. Other summer outings include attending the Symphony in the Square performances by the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, a trip the Ziedler Park farmer's market and a boat cruise on the river.

Staying active is one of the keys to remaining healthy, and there are plenty of opportunities to keep active at Milwaukee Catholic Home this summer and throughout the year.

**STAYING ACTIVE IS ONE OF THE KEYS TO REMAINING HEALTHY, AND THERE ARE PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES TO KEEP ACTIVE AT MILWAUKEE CATHOLIC HOME**



## PATIO POPS IS IN FULL SWING!



**Richard Wadsten and Carl Muenzner**

Residents and their families, friends and guests are enjoying the sixth annual Patio Pops summer concert series. Concerts are held on The Residence Patio every other Wednesday evening throughout the summer months. Patio Pops has something for every musical taste, as performances range from jazz to cabaret to Celtic and more!

Concert-goers enjoy wonderful music, camaraderie and refreshments in the beautiful

setting of the Milwaukee Catholic Home patio.

This year's performers include: Streetlife, The Milwaukee Children's Choir, Robin Pluer and Friends, the Carol Ferrara Quintet, Paul Ceban and The Milwaukeeans, Bellissimi Opera Quartet, The Happy Accidents, and Beckie Menzie and Tom Michael Cabaret. MCH would like to thank everyone who makes Patio Pops possible through donations to The Residence Fine Arts Fund.



**Mary and John Mulcahy**

## RESIDENTS REALIZE BENEFITS OF TAI CHI



**Phyllis Babb**

Milwaukee Catholic Home residents are learning a new way to exercise with weekly tai chi classes. The benefits of tai chi include stress relief, improving muscle strength and balance, lowering the risk of falls, increasing flexibility and helping with arthritis pain. Tai chi also improves participants' energy, leaving them feeling refreshed and renewed. When the weather is nice, the class is even held outside on the patio.



**Residents enjoy a relaxing tai chi class**

# SPARKLER PARTY GOES ON WITH A BANG!

Milwaukee Catholic Home's Corporate Members and their guests celebrated Independence Day in style at the July 3rd Sparkler Party held on The Residence Patio. The party featured hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, music, and an evening full of camaraderie with family, friends and neighbors. While rain forced the cancellation of the rooftop viewing of the fireworks, it wasn't enough to dampen the spirits of partygoers.

If you haven't already become a Corporate Member, you can do so by sending a tax-deductible membership donation of \$50 for residents and \$75 for community members to the Milwaukee Catholic Home Development Office. Corporate members receive recognition in our annual report, as well as an invitation to the Annual Meeting.



**Rose Mary Pluckhahn, Audrey Komarek, Kathleen Cassafer and Mary Carter**



**Jo Conole and Beverly Crawford**



**Bruno and Maureen Wolff**

## MCH SPONSORS ART COMPETITION

In June, Milwaukee Catholic Home sponsored the Downer Avenue Plein Aire Competition. Throughout the event, artists painted on the sidewalks of Downer Avenue. Each night a reception was held for the artists in various locations throughout the neighborhood. Milwaukee Catholic Home hosted a wine and cheese reception for the artists, their guests and our residents prior to a Patio Pops concert. It was a great opportunity for the residents to mingle with the artists, some of whom displayed their paintings in The Residence Ballroom throughout the 10-day competition.





# GIFTS FROM THE HEART

Milwaukee Catholic Home gratefully acknowledges our generous benefactors. Gifts of cash, property, securities, bequests and other gifts assist us in providing outstanding retirement and health care services for our residents. We encourage gifts in memory or honor of a loved one. We will be happy to notify the individual or family member of your generosity.

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## RESIDENT SHARES EXPERIENCES

Assisted Living resident Peter Stone recently gave a presentation to other residents on his experiences while living with families in India. Mr. Stone and his son, Doug, shared different artifacts that he obtained while living there, providing interesting insight about each item. His friends and neighbors enjoyed hearing about all of his fascinating experiences!

**Doug and Peter Stone**

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† Deceased

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## ENJOYING THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER!



Ruthellen Sanders & Karin Knoerr

Residents joined guests and MCH staff in celebrating the “dog days” of summer by hosting their four-legged friends at Milwaukee Catholic Home. Families, friends and staff members were kind enough to share their pets with the MCH residents for an afternoon of fun on the patio. The residents sipped root beer floats, while the dogs enjoyed treats, pets and hugs. The afternoon was equally enjoyed by the residents and the dogs!



Melissa Stauber &  
Dr. Clifford Mortimer

# TIME SLIPS GROUP SEES FRUITS OF THEIR EFFORTS

Throughout the course of the spring semester, a group of students from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee worked with residents from Milwaukee Catholic Home’s Special Care Unit on a TimeSlips story-telling project. TimeSlips allows residents with Alzheimer’s or other dementia to express their creativity through a story-telling process.

For their final project and presentation, the students put together a book of all the stories developed through working with the residents. Each of the resident storytellers received a copy of the bound book, presented by the students. The other students in the class joined the group and the residents, as the students discussed what they learned from the TimeSlips process. Following the presentation, the students and residents enjoyed cake and refreshments.



**Gretchen Kolb shares her TimeSlips book with Bridget McNair**



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