



Fall 2020

Eastern Star Masonic

Retirement Campus

Spotlight

2445 South Quebec St
Denver, CO 80231-9924
303-756-9489



Elsie Stoetzer (left) and Lillian Rogers (right) were honored for long membership in Eastern Star.
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ESMRC remaining steady amid challenging times

This year, 2020, has certainly been interesting. We have all had to make changes to our daily life. The Robert Russell Campus has been no different. We have been fortunate to have had only eight cases of COVID-19 in the memory care unit and one in the assisted living area. These occurred in the early days of the coronavirus pandemic. ESMRC secured the required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in case a second lock-down occurs. It is a great tribute to Executive Director Larry Lillo and his great staff. They have gone above and beyond in their care and compassion to the residents.

We had planned to be well into the construction of a new assisted living building by now; however, the pandemic changed these plans. The Board felt it was prudent to place a hold on the new building because there are so many unknowns with this virus.

The plans are completed. Building permits are in place — we can move forward when feasible. We do have frequent update conferences with a

banking partner, ensuring that we can move forward when the time is right.

ESMRC is sound financially. The Board does not want to risk any changes in that position. We have been able to stay in this position with the oversight given by Larry and his staff.

Please keep the residents in your thoughts and prayers. This has been exceedingly difficult on the residents and their families while Colorado health regulations prohibit personal visits in the building. Their safety and well-being are the focus of all we do. This is their home. We feel a responsibility to care for them and do all we can to maintain their home.



We have two positions on the board open for five-year terms. The applications can be found on the web page, <https://www.esmrc.com/senior-living/co/denver/board-of-trustees>.

We will be asking the House of Delegates to vote for a new board of trustees in October by email.

**– Terry Hudson
Board Chair**

Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Campus: 303-756-9489

2445 South Quebec Street, Denver, CO 80231-9924

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Managing ESMRC through a pandemic

2020 will be known as the “COVID-19 pandemic year.” It has been a year full of challenges, changes, and a new way of living for all. At ESMRC, life under COVID-19 has been, at best, an adjustment for residents, families, and front-line staff. I acknowledge that the effects of the pandemic and the resulting restrictions have fallen disproportionately on residents. This has been a difficult period of separation for residents and their loved ones.

Our ESMRC staff has done an incredible job of containing the virus and caring for residents — fully complying with local, State, and Center for Disease Control (CDC) protocols for infection control. The hard work by front-line staff, in particular Resident Services, Housekeeping, and Dietary Departments, cannot be overemphasized or more appreciated.

In March, our community had only nine cases of the virus. At this time, our community is COVID-free with all former cases considered officially resolved by the state. Two residents passed away from COVID-19. The families of these residents remain in our thoughts and prayers.

It is still hard to believe our community has been closed to receiving families, friends, and ancillary services since mid-March of this year, when Colorado Public Health Order 20-20 went into full effect. When I wrote this article, ESMRC remains under this order, which restricts all non-essential personnel and visitors from entering the building. Residents must remain in their apartments, coming out only for meals, exercise, and outdoor visits with family in designated areas.

To comply with social distancing requirements, dining services are provided in “shifts” for all three meal periods. We continue to closely monitor and screen the health of residents, including temperature checks twice daily. Due to current restrictions, our Life Enrichment Department is not permitted to facilitate group activities. The department has been scheduling visits for

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Two ESMRC residents get long-term membership pins from Eastern Star, New York

On Aug. 18, ESMRC celebrated resident Lillian Rogers’ birthday, 100-years-old. She also received her 80-year membership pin from the Order of the Eastern Star, sent from Grand Chapter of New York Owasco Valley, Chapter #330. After reviewing all records, Lillian is the only woman in Colorado or New York to have ever received this grand honor.

Not to be outdone, Elsie Stoetzer (right), who is a youthful 103-years-

old, received her 60-year pin, also from New York, Floral Park Chapter #726.

WGM Anna Peterson and AGM Cheryl Williams presented each woman with their pins.



Lillo...from page 3

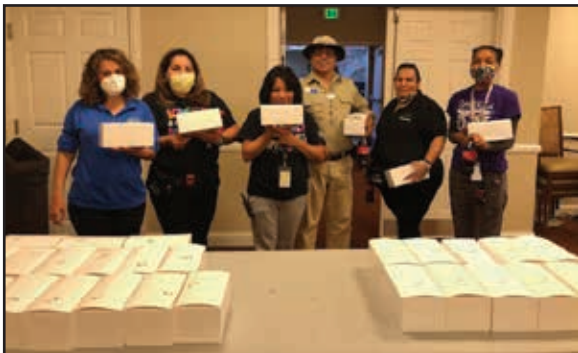
residents and their families, friends, and spiritual communities — both in-person and online.

Residents have also been engaged in packets of activities: in-room arts and crafts, weekly doorway-to-doorway carts of treats and refreshments, and shopping from the community Dollar Cart. Our staff is always looking for additional ways to spread cheer to residents.

In June, we began to once more allow new resident move-ins to Assisted Living and Memory Care programs, wanting to begin rebuilding occupancy. Prior to June, due to active COVID-19 cases, ESMRC was not permitted to accept any new residents. Move-ins to independent living, Star Vista Village, have occurred on a sporadic basis throughout the year. There have been no restrictions put in place for the Star Vista Village residents living on the campus.

The Marketing Department has been conducting online advertising campaigns, doing virtual tours, and working with healthcare providers to ensure that every new resident has a negative COVID-19 test prior to move-in.

The Fraternal Relations Department continues to utilize social media platforms to keep resident families, organization supporters, and potential new residents informed about what's going on at ESMRC. We continue to release email updates several days a week to share information and report the case status in ESMRC to families.



Above: Essential employees enjoy box lunches donated to ESMRC during shutdown.

The safety and wellness of residents and staff is and always will be our highest priority. As we enter the fall season, we continue to vigilantly monitor the virus and work closely with local and state health agencies for updates, guidance, and direction as to how we can keep our residents safe and our community free of COVID-19. All of us at ESMRC remain committed to keeping our residents fed, safe, and as healthy and engaged as possible.

I would like to conclude with our mission statement.

“Eastern Star Masonic Retirement campus is dedicated to the following mission: To take pride in meeting the social, physical, and spiritual needs of the residents of its campus through high-quality senior housing and services while being true to the Masonic family’s principles and values.”

Our mission has always been at the core of everything we do and remains our point of reference during these times that are both uncertain and challenging. Our mission is as much our anchor as it is our guiding light. All employees and I will continue to take pride in being an organization committed to meeting the needs of our deserving residents, not only in these unprecedented times, but in all times.

Thank you all for your support of our community during this difficult time. The outpouring of donations and genuine words of care and concern truly make a difference and have a positive impact on the spirits of our residents and staff. I am so appreciative of your kindness and support as ESMRC continues its work and prepares for the winter ahead.

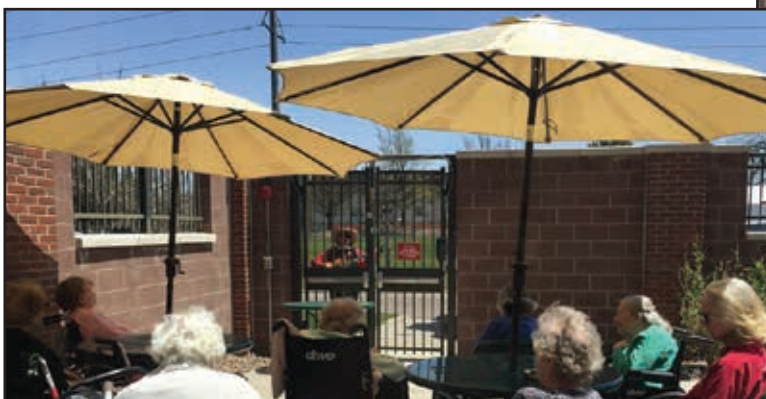
If you have friends or family members who may be interested in the Independent, Assisted Living, or Memory Care services we offer, please have them call, 303-753-2179, or 303-753-2100.

Stay safe and be well,

– Larry Lillo,
Executive Director

Activities Recap

Due to regulations/guidelines from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, ESMRC had to find new ways for relatives to visit residents. Accessible windows were established first. Later, when the weather was warmer, family members could visit on various patios.



Musician entertains at the windows and for residents on Memory Care patio.

Life goes on during a pandemic...

We still celebrated birthdays and had pizza parties (Larry's Not Here theme). Residents learned how to video chat. Exercise classes were held outside.



Amazing staff kept it positive!



Golfers (100) supported ESMRC's 11th annual fundraising tournament, held at Wellshire Golf Course on Aug. 28. A record of more than \$18,400 was raised! Thank you: golfers, sponsors, and donors! This year's auction was online. There were bidding wars over some fantastic items. Thank you to all who bid!



More Amazing ESMRC Staff!

In the January 2020 issue of Spotlight you met Rose, a member of our staff who was celebrating 25 years of dedication to working in our community. As soon as the mandatory stay-at-home order was lifted and we could all return to the building, we celebrated Rose for her 25 years of hard work.

Tracey Cook was recognized for 20 years at ESMRC. She is dedicated to giving overall exceptional care to the senior population. Tracey is a Colorado native who inspires everyone with her healthy lifestyle!



The Dollar Cart used to open once a week, but now it's twice a week. Residents can "shop" for items such as chocolate bars, air fresheners and toiletries. So many people donated items for residents — who still cannot go out shopping — to enjoy. If a resident needs or wants items, but has no money, they are not charged! All funds raised go towards replenishing the cart for the new week. It is a fun activity for all.



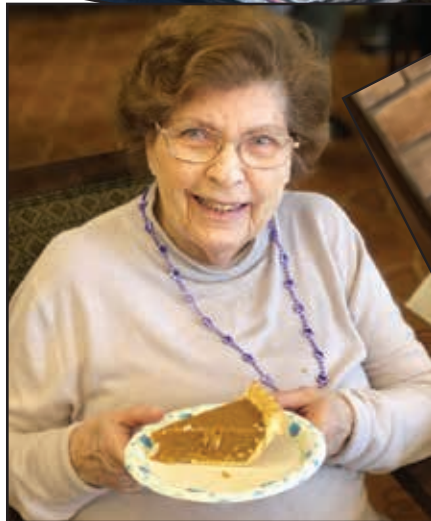
Before the COVID-19 pandemic curtailed activities, we were able to go on some field trips. We went to the Denver Art Museum, Bonnie Brae Ice Cream, and the Botanic Gardens. Memory care residents went on scenic rides and lunch outings.



Kay Ford gave beautiful flowers and plants to fill the garden beds in the Memory Care unit. Ford then donated her time to plant them.



Thanks to news anchor Chris Parente, who did a story on seniors during COVID-19, residents received beautiful cards from the loyal viewers of Channel 2. Some even became regular pen pals.



Yippee! It's Pie Day! Always a favorite for residents.



At ESMRC, residents and staff miss arts & crafts, Happy Hours, live entertainment, gossiping in the halls, playing dominoes, Women's Mixers, word games, and presentations on the stars and other informative lectures. No one is making any prediction — but everyone expects to return to these mask-less activities one day. Having chapter meetings at ESMRC has been missed as well.



ESMRC employees can donate \$1 to wear jeans on Fridays. Money collected goes to the staff assistance fund.



Assisted living can provide peace of mind

We get calls everyday from family members who are at a crossroads regarding what to do about their loved one who clearly needs more help. They are concerned about the type of care, the cost and whether their loved one is going to be on board with the idea of moving to assisted living. These are all important concerns that need to be addressed.

The best way to tackle these issues is to talk to a professional who can guide you through the process, helping you become comfortable with your decision. Here at Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Campus, we have a stellar team in the Sales and Marketing Department, who can describe your options. You will feel fully informed. Feel free to reach out to Diane Martini, Director of Marketing, and Certified Senior Advisor (303-753-2179). Barbara Aragon, Sales Director (303-753-2100), can also guide you on assisted living at ESMRC.

The hardest part is navigating all the options. Do I want a large or small community? Is a profit organization for my family member, or a nonprofit? What is the entry or community fee? What is the basic price? Then, what services do you have to pay extra for? For additional services, are there levels of care or scaled on a point system? Is a memory care neighborhood on the campus?

There are many more considerations, but these questions give you an idea of what must be considered.

Once you start to understand how assisted living communities work, you can start to explore what would best work for your loved one. We encourage you to ask a lot of questions. Pay attention to cleanliness. Note how the residents look. What is the service longevity of staff? These are just a few considerations.

We also counsel families to go with their gut. Doing your homework, with the help of a professional, will give you the peace of mind that you are looking for when making the decision to place your loved one in assisted living.

Once you have placed your loved one in assisted living, you can start to relax, knowing that your loved one is receiving the care they need while remaining as independent as possible. You most likely will see an improvement in your loved one's appearance, socialization and overall well-being. No more sleepless nights wondering if your loved one is okay.

If you want to reduce anxiety and achieve peace of mind, I encourage you to pick up the phone and call us to start the journey. We are here for you.

– Diane Martini,
303-753-2179
Barbara Aragon,
303-753-2100



Friends and family members of ESMRC were quite generous when thanking employees who continued their essential work through the pandemic.



Spotlight on a Resident

This is Walter Rowell in unit #29 of the Star Vista Village.

I didn't have a tree house as a boy. But during World War 2, our backyard apple tree was a US bomber. My brother and I made a cardboard instrument panel then spent many hours "flying" that bomber. We would climb out various branches to check for damage to wings or tail caused by enemy fire.

The apples were small and inedible, so they made good bombs. We did a lot of imaginary damage to Germany and Japan.

In later years, in an outing to a local park while we were visiting family back East, two

of our grandchildren went up a tree. I joined them. We climbed



all over that big tree. Two other kids we didn't know were watching us. When we came down, they headed for the tree. Their mother yelled at them to come back, and not climb the tree.

She told the kids, "we don't do that."

I responded, "What a shame."

Thanks for your positive, upbeat messages each week.

Now, I'll pay more attention to Eastern Star's trees. (I'm younger than George Bernard Shaw.)

No, don't worry.

Spotlight on a Trustee

When I was young, my parents were very active in Eastern Star and the Colorado Masonic family as a whole. My mom regularly visited the Russell Center and Star Village to visit elderly members that she had known for nearly her entire life. Helping to make sure these members had what they needed was a great priority for her.

Several times, while at a store, she would pull out a list of things someone at the center needed. A few days later she'd be making the trip across town to visit and deliver the items.

I can also recall visiting the center myself several times starting over 30 years ago.

Both my parents are gone now. Being a

board member helps me keep the spirit of supporting our Masonic family members, and all the residents — a personal family tradition.

It is a great satisfaction to be a small part of the effort to help our residents continue to enjoy their lives to the fullest, and to support the staff who work so hard to make it happen.



– Bart Wegner
Board of Trustee Member

Philanthropy —



Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Campus thanks the following Chapters, Lodges and individuals for their donations to the ESMRC for January–August 2020.

Andrew Anderson	The Blackbaud Giving Group Fund
Pamela Crowell	Lina Byrd in memory of Dick Hayes and JoAnn White
Robert Dougherty	Gail Douglas in memory of Charlene Mills
Keith Gilchrist	Amy Guest in memory of Charlene Mills/Helping Hands
Rachael Gordon	Thomas and Claudia Henshall in memory of Helen and Ted Opp
Amy Graziano	Marion MacNeill in memory of Charlene Mills
Dr. Anthony Korvas	Karen Ostermiller in memory of Katherine Pullen
Ellen Lillo	Jody Panian in memory of Charlene Mills
Jane Anne Rivette	Wallace and Patricia Pitt in memory of Charlene Mills/Memory Care
Jeanne (Genaro) Sabet	Mary Ann Ray in memory of Mary Pat Miller
Charlene St. John	Victoria Swensen in memory of Phyllis Holec
Dolores B. Soderberg Trust	Beverly Wagoner in memory of Charlene Mills/Memory Care
Excelsior Chapter #66 OES	Treasures of Life Grand Family: Ray Byrd In memory of Les Saylor
Grand Chapter of Colorado, OES	South Gate Chapter #104 OES in memory of Carolyn Reuben, Don St. John, John Pipe, Phyllis Graziano, Roger Nittler and Twila Roberts
Past Patrons Club of Colorado	
Star Vista Village	

In-Kind Donations — Thank you to the following Fraternal Family members and private individuals who donated in-kind items for the residents as well as treats/food/lunches for the staff during the months of January–August 2020. You were so generous in rewarding our dedicated staff during the very hard months of quarantine.

We appreciate you!

Cathy Berends and the Fran Sharp family	Leigh Green	Jan Paul
Friends of Jan Blankenship	Robin Heinrichy	Jane Rivette
Family of Paul Caruso	Julia James	Robin (beautician)
John Coffey	Karen Karnes	Kristi Rudy
Florence Craig	Sue Knebel	Pam Smiley and family
Kathy Craig	Diane Larson	Sally Westerberg
Kathy Easterday and family	Family and friends of Ann Lane	Eastern Star Loyalty Chapter #145
Kay Ford	Legacy Softball Team	Suntree Hospice of Colorado
Karen Frost	Kim McBride	
	Family of Norma Lou Murr	

Thanks to all anonymous donors or those whose names are not acknowledged here — we appreciate your support!

The Robert Russell Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Campus is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit, so all donations are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to Robert Russell Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Campus or R.R.E.S.M.R.C. Send them to Attention Director, 2445 S. Quebec St, Denver, CO 80231. You can also go online to ESMRC's website: www.esmrc.com, then click the "donate now" icon. Make a secure donation using the Community First Foundation System.



“Give Where You Live”

Colorado Gives Day December 8, 2020

- Colorado Gives Day unites all Coloradans in a common goal to strengthen the state’s nonprofits by giving to their favorite charities online. Please choose the Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Campus to make a donation, starting Nov. 1, in Supporting Colorado Gives Day.
- All Coloradans are encouraged to join the statewide Colorado Gives Day movement by supporting their favorite causes online. (**Look for the Robert Russell Eastern Star Home of Colorado**) *ColoradoGives.org*.
- Every donation helps! New for 2020, the minimum donation that can be made online is \$5.

You can go to our website: www.esmrc.com.

Look for the “Donate now” icon. Then click to make a secure on line donation.



Even during a pandemic, residents received delicious, locally made cupcakes, sorted the socks, and shared space with our much-loved ESMRC cats.

AMAZON SMILE

If you are an AMAZON shopper, you can pick a charity of your choosing, and AMAZON will make a direct donation for you at no cost to you! When you shop at smile.amazon.com, we hope you choose us! You will find us under the Robert Russell Eastern Star Home of Colorado. The amount of the donation varies, depending on the size of your purchase.

Spotlight

Robert Russell Eastern Star
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\$25 \$50 \$75 Other _____

Tree of Faith \$100-499 Tree of Hope \$500-999 Tree of Love \$1,000 and up

Make checks payable to Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Campus or ESMRC. Your donation is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

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