

# Ron Smith Care Centre

## @ Elphin Lodge



April 2024 No. 99

### Easter

# Egg-scapades

The month of Easter was celebrated with all kinds of eggs, traditionally and historically one of the symbols of rebirth and new life. Hard-boiled eggs for dyeing, delicious chocolate eggs for winning in games and competitions, speckled eggs to be admired and eaten as cupcake decorations, and marshmallow eggs to be enjoyed on Easter Sunday.

The highlight of Easter month was the special tea held in the Recreation Centre on March 20. Residents and staff were welcomed as they came through the door and an Easter hat was placed on their heads. The colourful hats were created during several arts and crafts sessions at the Rec Centre.

The programme opened with a few interesting facts about Easter traditions and how they started, followed by a Bunny Hop Easter game that involved several chances to win chocolate eggs! The morning ended with tea and decorated Easter cupcakes.

Friday, March 22, saw the staff from each of the six wings helping the residents to search for chocolate Easter eggs. The residents were as delighted as children each time they spotted the colourful, foil-wrapped eggs. For extra fun, residents who found a picture of a bunny rabbit with a special Easter greeting were presented with a chocolate bunny. These are the winners from each wing:

- |                                |                            |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| River Lodge 1 – Josephine Kew  | Woodlands – Ria Milburn    |
| River Lodge 2 – Joy Smith      | Cedar Park – Mavis Brookes |
| River Lodge 3 – Schalk Grobler | Lakeside – Rhona Burnham   |





## RIVER LODGE 2 RESIDENT: MARLENE RIMMER

I was born in 1937 in Durban, the only child of my factory-worker father & my dressmaker mother. I had always wished for brothers & sisters, but I quite enjoyed spending time with my mom & dad. We always went to the beach on weekends & ate out at different restaurants on Sundays. I completed a course at Business College & got a job doing secretarial work for an insurance company. It was here that I met my first husband, Reginald. We were happily married for 42 years until his death & had 2 children: Gavin (JHB) & Karen (CT) and 5 beautiful grandchildren.

Our neighbours in Pietermaritzburg were Barry & Annthel Tedder. We were all very close; our children grew up together & we would see each other socially. Both families eventually relocated to JHB & over the years, both Reginald & Annthel passed away. Around 12 years after Reg's death, Barry's daughter, Guine, decided to play matchmaker to Barry & myself & we rekindled our friendship which resulted in our marriage in 2007. Barry (a retired civil engineer) & I have now been happily married for 16 years. We set up our home in Edenvale & later moved to Elphin Lodge.



60s & 70s music (Beatles, Abba, Elvis) | **Ballroom dancing at the old Athlone Hotel in Durban** | Hosting dinner parties & business functions and doing all the cooking and baking | **Designated supplier of pudding at our family Christmas celebrations** | Curry (not too spicy) | **Sweet treats** | Elphino's coffee milkshakes | My faith – I used to attend services at Edenvale Methodist Church | **Caravanning in KZN, Namaqualand, Kruger & Pilanesberg, and beach holidays** | My family – they mean so much to me

FAVOURITES

## RIVER LODGE 2 RESIDENT: MERVYN MILLER

I was born in 1940 in Potchefstroom. My father came from a big family & I remember growing up within a huge Jewish community of aunts, uncles, cousins & friends. After matriculating from Potchefstroom Boys' High, I enlisted in the navy which was based at Simon's Town near Cape Town. My first job was selling military equipment/supplies & after that, I sold cars in Kroonstad & also qualified as a car mechanic. A short while after moving to JHB, my friend Les & I attended a house party. My future wife Gail was there with a date she didn't particularly like & she was busy asking Les to rescue her when I walked up & intro-

duced myself! The rest is history, as they say! We left the party together, went to a restaurant & then I drove her home. Our next date was when I invited her to a soccer match. We married within 6 months of meeting each other! We were happily married for 38 years until her death in 2007. We had 3 children: Stuart, Candy, & Andy and 8 beautiful grandchildren, who all thankfully live in JHB. In 1991, I joined the world-renowned Johannesburg Jewish Male Choir. We travelled the world, performing in Australia at the Sydney Opera House, Las Vegas, Israel, Vienna & many other countries.



**Music – it has been my passion my whole life!** | The Lyndhurst Synagogue Choir, in which I was very active | **Playing the piano – I used to play for school choirs & entertain the old folk at old age homes with my friend, Elaine Wainer** | Jazz. | **Watching the news, sports & police stories** | Crossword puzzles & word games | **Ice cream** | Friday night Shabbat family dinners | **My wonderful children and grandchildren** | The joy that music has brought to my life

FAVOURITES

## RIVER LODGE 2 ENA: PRECIOUS MONWANATI

I was born in Alex in 1986. When I was 4, my father took us to live in Mapapila village in Limpopo, while my mother remained in JHB to work. My parents believed that Limpopo was a better place to grow up. I had a happy childhood. After high school, I went to university to study social work, but couldn't complete my studies because of finances. I thus started care worker training. I met my future husband, Sabelo, when visiting my mom in Alex. He said that he wanted to be my boyfriend, but I was reluctant because with me being Tsonga, my mother would be unhappy with me dating a Zulu! But in the end, I agreed because he was

very persistent. He proposed in 2009, paid lobola in 2010, & we had a wonderful traditional marriage celebration. We were together for 15 years until his tragic death in 2021. We had 2 daughters: Siphesihle (13) & Siyanda (7) & a son: Sabelo Jr (2). My mother grew to love Sabelo; he was a good man, husband, and father. In 2006, I was selected to attend free hospitality training at Tshwane University of Technology, & then worked as a restaurant cashier. I saved all my money to continue with my nursing studies. I qualified as an ENA in 2009, started doing relief work for Rand Aid in 2020, & became permanent staff in 2023.



Traditional Tsonga music | **Reading novels** | Watching the Starlife Indian channel (stories about life & how to handle the problems of daily living) | **Adventure movies** | Traditional dancing, partner dancing & freestyle | **Cooking and baking, but not really eating!** | Treating my kids to McDonalds or Spur at month end | **The birthday cake my eldest daughter baked especially for me!** | The travel experiences I had as a private carer – my client took my kids and me to Kruger many times

FAVOURITES

## RESIDENTS

03 Apr	Myra Serebro	88
11 Apr	Maria Da Silva	86
12 Apr	Esme Frenkel	95
14 Apr	Sylvia Lasarow	96
16 Apr	Joan Boule	90
17 Apr	Ellen Quinn	101
19 Apr	Valda Strauss	73
21 Apr	Lorraine Lowdon	84
22 Apr	Patricia Ann Duncan	86
23 Apr	Elaine Cohen	95
24 Apr	Suzanne Bohmke	86
24 Apr	Amy Wright	89
27 Apr	Basil James	90

## STAFF

02 Apr	Zanele Luwalala
04 Apr	Machuene Kgatla
04 Apr	Mokgadi Makwaeba
05 Apr	Pascaline Kamela
05 Apr	Nelly Motshoene
06 Apr	Vulani Nkuna
06 Apr	Phyllis Ntimana
06 Apr	Pinky Tshayisa
07 Apr	Samkelisiwe Khuzwayo
27 Apr	Thembisile Mthembu
28 Apr	Mapula Matshaba
28 Apr	Matshidiso Mfeka

Staff members must please remember to collect their birthday chocolate from reception.

## Welcome to

Gordon Capper	LS
Isobel Kohll	RL2
Nola Leese	RL1
Carole Pieterse	RL1

## Fondly remembered

Lynette Honigman	RL3
Sylvia Kree	RL1
Isobel Peddie	LS

## Best housekeeping team for February

Nomusa Shabangu and Precious Mlimo are a dream team! Sister Leanie Bessinger notices that whenever she goes into River Lodge 2, these two are always smiling but also hard at work. They don't have to be told what to do or when to do it. They just get on with the job at hand and always with a smile on their faces. The two of them are a breath of fresh air! RL2 is shiny from top to bottom!



Nomusa Shabangu, Matron Avril Maltman and Precious Mlimo.