

Ron Smith Care Centre

@ Elphin Lodge



DEC 2024/JAN 2025 No. 107



2024's blessings



Season's greetings

Dear residents, families, and staff,

As we reflect on another year at the Ron Smith Care Centre, I'm filled with gratitude for the continued support and dedication of every one of you.

Together, we have strived to uphold the principles of the Eden Alternative, creating a nurturing environment that fosters joy, purpose and connection. Our commitment to person-centred care remains unwavering and we are honoured to serve our residents and their families.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated staff for their tireless efforts in providing exceptional care. Your compassion and professionalism make a significant difference in the lives of our residents.

To our valued residents and their families, thank you for choosing the Ron Smith Care Centre as your home. Your trust and support inspire us to continue striving for excellence.

Wishing you all a peaceful and joyous holiday season, and a prosperous New Year.

Matron Avril Maltman

Festive fun spreads holiday happiness

Residents and staff at Ron Smith Care Centre embraced the festive spirit in style on 13 December, throwing a Christmas party to remember!

Upon arriving at the main dining room, guests were greeted by a display of glittering gold and red stars on the ceiling. The tables were beautifully decked out with festive arrangements of poinsettias, glitter berries and even more shimmering stars – a feast for the eyes before the feast for the tastebuds.

The festivities kicked off with a special treat – a performance by the much-loved South African tenor, Chris Coetzer.

Known for his stunning voice and warm charisma, Chris wowed the RSCC community with a lively programme of golden oldies and festive favourites. A truly magical moment arrived when Chris delivered a spine-tingling rendition of *O Holy Night* before bringing the party together for a handholding, spirit-lifting finale of *You Raise Me Up*.

Of course, no Christmas party is complete without a scrumptious meal, and the RSCC crew delivered in style. Guests tucked into a festive spread featuring tuna mousse, roast leg of lamb, crispy roast potatoes, pumpkin muffins, peas and carrots and a sherry trifle to round it all off.

"With smiles as bright as the decorations and songs lingering in their hearts, residents and staff left the celebration feeling uplifted, energised and thoroughly merry. It was, without a doubt, a Christmas celebration to cherish," says Debbie Christen, the care centre's recreational and training services facilitator.





Get to know me

LAKESIDE RESIDENT GRACE LISSONI

I was born in the former Italian colony of Nefertiti, Eritrea, in 1939. My dad was born in Egypt, and my mom was from Italy. When WWII started, my dad enlisted & my family boarded a ship to Italy. My dad was a prisoner of war & sent to a POW camp in SA. I had my first few years of schooling in Italy but after the war we moved back to Eritrea. I had a tough upbringing; we were poor & experienced the hardships of wartime living. After school, I did a secretarial course, got married, & had a son, Silvio. Shortly after his birth, I got divorced. My dad encouraged me to write a letter to Dr Verwoerd, asking for permission to immigrate to SA, which I did in 1964. I found employment as a secretary & lived in Hillbrow. Shortly after, I married my second husband, Tino, & we had a son, Antonio. We were married for 56 years until his death in 2022. Tino formed his own company, Liser Trading, which initially exported goods to Mozambique (they had wartime shortages). I worked as an admin clerk for the company & Antonio joined the team in 1989 & they later specialised in supplying medical equipment.



Thoughts

I love:

Helping people - my mom would get upset when I shared the food she cooked with those who were hungry. Italian classical music and TV. Dog and cats.

I remember:

Feeding the poor on the streets, bringing them clothes & toiletries & visiting the lonely people in old age homes. I loved to tango and waltz. I was a good cook & used to make all kinds of Italian dishes.

MAROPENG MAWASHA: LAKESIDE ENROLLED NURSE

I grew up on my dad's farm in Ga-Modjadji village, Limpopo. I come from a large family, with all of us belonging to the Molobedu tribe & I am the first-born of 5 girls. Life on the farm was wonderful. Every day was an adventure – learning about farm animals and crops. My mother taught me that education is the key to success. She is the one who encouraged me to live life as if there is no tomorrow & pushed me to achieve my goals. I wanted to pursue agriculture, but it was difficult to find work in this field. So, after matric, I moved to JHB to attend nursing college & qualified as an enrolled nurse. I worked at several hospitals before joining Rand Aid in 2022. Working on Lakeside is not a job, it's more like being at home with family. There are real bonds between residents & staff. The Eden training has been inspiring, as I have learnt how to give person-centred care. I have 2 beautiful children: Jude (16) & Phina (5). I love spending time with them. Jude loves skateboarding & Phina loves going out. Favourite places to visit are: picnicking at Emmarentia Dam, the Botanical Gardens, Gold Reef City, & the Farmers' Market.



Thoughts

I love:

Singing. Gospel music. Musicals. Being out in nature. Traditional food (mopani worms, mogodu, termites & pap). Trying different food - soon I am going to try sushi.

I enjoy:

Ocean Basket. Making pancakes for breakfast.

I remember:

A group holiday in Bantry Bay, Cape Town. We booked a whole house & had a wonderful time.

LAKESIDE RESIDENT PAM MILLS

I was born in 1943 in Pietermaritzburg. I am the second of three sisters. We later moved to Durban where I attended Gordon Road Primary School and then Northland Girls High School where my aunt was the headmistress. I had a happy childhood, with loving parents and fond memories of swimming in the ocean. At the age of 14, I went to a party where I met my first boyfriend, Gerald. We eventually got married in 1965. After school I worked at the Rent Board and then later at a firm of attorneys. After Gerald and I got married, we moved to Joburg. I got a secretarial job until the birth of our daughter Karen, in 1967. She was tragically killed in a road accident in 1980. We later moved to Springs where our son Grant, and our daughter Tracey-Anne were born. We are now blessed with 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. One of my proudest achievements was when Gerald and I were able to work together. We sold towelling goods to the salon industry. While Gerald did the business side, I designed patterns and taught the ladies how to sew. We had the business for about 20 years before our children stepped into the leadership roles.



Thoughts

I love:

Novels. Feel-good movies. Tennis. Chocolate. Putting my feet up and having a chat with my friends. My husband, Gerald, and am most grateful to still have him beside me.

I remember:

Sitting on my father's lap as a child while he played piano for us. Gerald and I loved travelling and have wonderful memories of our travels to Australia, New Zealand, Canada, America and Europe.

Birthdays

RESIDENTS

05 Jan	Sydelle Morris (CP)	92
16 Jan	Erzebet Tamasi (LS)	90
19 Jan	Beryl O'Donnell (WL)	95
20 Jan	Joan Symons (CP)	82
21 Jan	Ria Milburn (WL)	81
21 Jan	Marlene Rimmer (RL2)	88
26 Jan	Molly Matroos (LS)	53
28 Jan	Anne Brokensha (CP)	104
28 Jan	Charles Power (WL)	85
29 Jan	Trudi Thijs (RL2)	93

STAFF

01 Jan	Lucy Kgafela
01 Jan	Matevhu Nethononda
01 Jan	Mafemani Chauke
03 Jan	Rose Lebjane
03 Jan	Makau Nkadimeng
06 Jan	Helen Petrie
09 Jan	Lucia Nkuna
12 Jan	Silungile Dube
15 Jan	Madikana Matshaba
21 Jan	Pulane Malatji
22 Jan	Tshepo Malatjie
25 Jan	Laurentia Jooste
29 Jan	Vuyokazi Mkhwambi

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

FONDLY REMEMBERED

Darrel Marks	John O'Callaghan
RL3	RL3

WELCOME TO...

Maureen Couling	RL3
Miriam Benjamin	RL1
Helga Bucher	RL3
Pamela Botes	RL2
Frank Kantor	RL2



A lovely little Christmas corner was created at Lakeside, with hand-strung popcorn decorating their tree.