

Ron Smith Care Centre @ Elphin Lodge



Feb 2025 No. 108



Flower power

Residents at the Ron Smith Care Centre enjoyed a creative and joyful flower-arranging party on January 17. Held in the recreation centre, the event featured a colourful array of flowers and greenery, including roses, gerberas, chrysanthemums, lilies, and eucalyptus, along with expert guidance from florist Lauri Kruger. Debbie Christen, the care centre's recreational and training services facilitator, noted that both residents and staff delighted in creating beautiful arrangements, with the activity sparking fond memories of past gardening experiences. The finished floral arrangements brightened the space, and the residents and staff enjoyed tea and iced chocolate cupcakes afterwards.

RIVER LODGE 2 RESIDENT: GEORGE LAI

I was born in 1935 (1st generation SA Chinese) & grew up in Chinatown. My father owned the Marina View Building & our large family occupied the first floor. Being Chinese, we experienced the discriminatory laws of apartheid, including being banned from 'white' schools. I initially went to a rundown Chinese school, then the New Town Coloured School. My father later managed to get me into a private Christian college. When I was 18, he started training me to take over his wholesale grocery business. When I was 19, he found a wife for me. Jane was born in China and spoke little

English, while I spoke little Chinese. Our first home was in Belgravia, but our neighbours wanted us removed because we were Chinese. With a lawyer's help, we were allowed to stay. After 5 years, I bought a house in Bedfordview. I worked in grocery wholesale for 20 years before buying a drycleaning business. When Jane became ill, we moved to Inyoni Creek. We were married for 60 happy years until her death in 2014. We had 5 children: Peter (USA), Michelle (Australia), Ancilla (JHB) & Bernard (Australia). Anthony, our firstborn, tragically died from childhood leukemia.



Chinese tea | **Watching the news & tennis** | Going for walks | **Sitting at the lake & watching the birds** | One of my favourite places was the Kruger Park | **I loved gardening** | My wife came from a poor family, so during our married life, I wanted to take her around the world and explore other countries & cultures. We travelled to China, America, UK, Canada, Australia, & Mauritius | **I am so proud of all my children & grandchildren – that they are all qualified professionals, healthy, happy & successful**

RIVER LODGE 2 RESIDENT: SALOME CHINMAN

I was born in 1940 in Springs as the first of three children. My sister still lives in Joburg and my brother, who is the youngest, lives in Canada. I went to Sandringham Primary and High School where my love for playing tennis started. I still enjoy watching tennis. My father was diagnosed with Parkinson's at a relatively young age, and my mother was the one who took care of him. I would often visit my aunt and uncle in Joburg over the weekend. My uncle, Max Neppe, was the mayor of Joburg at the time. After high school, I went to Damelin College where I learnt shorthand and typing. Soon after college, I started working at the

head office of Dodos shoes where I worked for many years. One of the greatest benefits of working for Dodos was having access to a wide variety of shoes, especially since I often received sample pairs. I married my husband, Solly, at 24 years old. We knew each other through mutual friends. He was a good man who worked very hard. He had his own company working with electrical design. We shared 47 wonderful years of marriage before his passing. We were blessed with two children, our daughter Meryl who lives in Joburg, and our son Steven, who lives in Canada. I am now blessed with 4 grandchildren.



Reading, music, soaps & movies | **Crossword puzzles** | I used to knit jerseys & enjoyed working in the garden | **Going for walks & being in nature** | I enjoyed cooking & hosting birthday parties and Jewish celebrations | **Ice cream and red wine** | I have great memories of my work travels with Solly (Swaziland, Botswana, Durban & Cape Town, among others) | **The Drakensberg and Mui-zenberg (best holiday destinations)** | The art collection that Solly and I acquired | **I am content and deeply grateful for the many blessings in my life**

RIVER LODGE 2 ENA: NONHLANHLA MLAMBO

I was born in KZN in 1988, the 3rd of 7 children. I grew up in Jozini village & had a happy childhood: I loved Zulu dancing & swimming in the river (despite the crocs). My dad was a farmer & we were expected to help with the planting/harvesting of sugar cane & mangoes & also look after the animals. My upbringing equipped me to overcome life's challenges. After matric, my granny was diagnosed with cancer & had a stroke. When I began to care for her, I discovered that this was my calling. In 2012, I trained as an HIV/Aids counsellor & in 2014, I attended nursing college & qualified as an auxiliary nurse. Jobs were hard to

find & I worked at Shoprite for 4 years, then at Baragwanath for a year, before becoming relief staff for Rand Aid in 2023. I became permanent staff in February 2024. In 2016, I met my partner, Vukani, at a taxi rank in Soweto, in the middle of a thunderstorm! When I got off the taxi, there was a huge clap of thunder & a lightning strike & I got such a fright that I dropped my bags! Being a gentleman, Vukani stop to help me. We have been together for 8 years now and we are preparing to have both a traditional and white wedding. We live together with our beautiful daughter, Nqobile, in Soweto.



Gospel music & singing | **Soaps** | Cooking and baking | **My happy place is spending time with my daughter** | I am grateful that my uncle offered to pay for nursing college. He wanted to reward me for being the only child at home to achieve matric without any academic or behavioural issues | **One of my dreams is to be an animal farmer** | I would like to be able to provide a good education for my children | **It is important to understand other people's situations; to respect others & to help the less fortunate** | Kaizer Chiefs

RESIDENTS

03 Feb	Olive Jew	(LS)	101
04 Feb	Geetha Hiramam	(RL3)	63
06 Feb	Maria Volschenk	(LS)	88
13 Feb	Pamela Mintz	(WL)	94
14 Feb	Miriam Benjamin	(RL1)	78
15 Feb	Joan Beeton	(WL)	90
20 Feb	Marion Simmonds	(RL2)	81
23 Feb	Elizabeth Marshall	(RL1)	79
24 Feb	Margaret Garden	(CP)	89

STAFF

06 Feb	Mpho Rasidumelo
13 Feb	Nonhlanhla Mlambo
14 Feb	Teboho Nyathi
17 Feb	Motsatsi Moilakgomo

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

Fondly remembered

Emilia Oliviera	RL3
Michael Papageorgiou	CP
Lancelot Schmidt	RL3
Nana Roberts	RL3
Annastasia Thula	CP

Welcome to

Janet Green	RL2
Jan and Bob Miller	CP



Birthday girl Olive Jew.

Ever-smiling Olive turns 101

Olive Jew from Lakeside enjoys the January sunshine in anticipation of her 101st birthday on February 3!

Olive became a happy resident of Rand Aid's Elphin Lodge Retirement Village outside of Johannesburg in 1997, where she remained until she moved into Ron Smith Care Centre, on the same grounds, five years ago.

She is a talented watercolourist and started the Art Club at Elphin Lodge 28 years ago.