

Unity Acres
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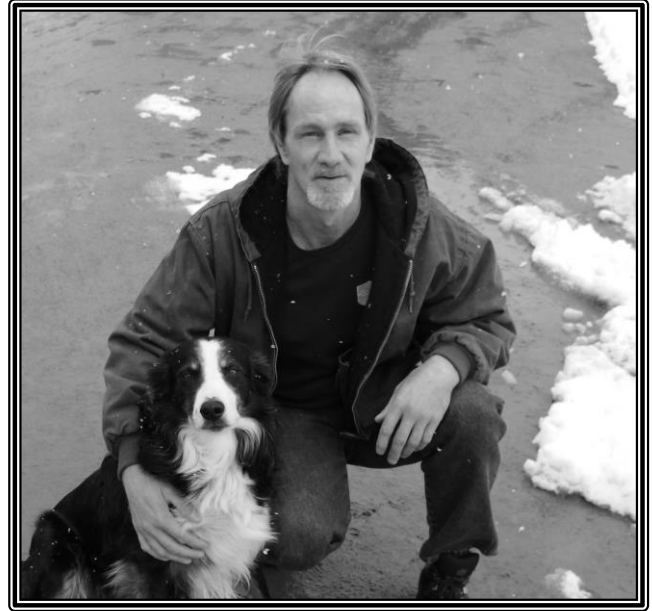
June 27, 2011

Dear Friends of Unity Acres,

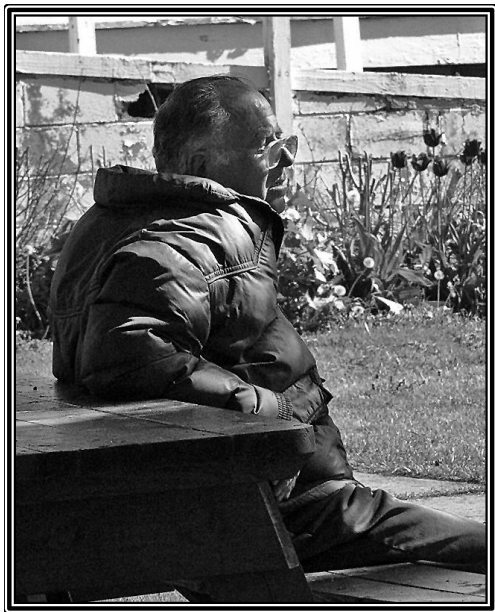
It's been almost three months since our last newsletter, and quite a lot has transpired here since then. Residents and staff have been kept busy with the change in the season from spring to summer: gardens have been planted, lawns and grounds are being maintained, firewood for next winter is being cut and brought in from the woods. The Oswego County Health Department agreed to conduct a TB screening for our residents in early April, and offered as well vaccinations for hepatitis, pneumonia, and tetanus. One or two major maintenance projects have been proposed and agreed for implementation during the next several weeks and months. We hope to be able to write about these in greater detail in an up-coming letter.

Two and a half months ago we celebrated Unity Acres' now 42-year history of welcome and hospitality offered to homeless men. Close to 250 guests filled the Empire Room at the State Fairgrounds, for an evening to benefit the Acres, and to acknowledge this year's honorees: Pat Waelder and her late husband Bill Waelder. And so we'd like to thank all involved in this year's celebration: our Fund-Raiser Committee, Carol Berrigan, Elaine Crough, Sr. Monica Nortz, Dan McCann and Kris Waelder; our hosts at the Empire Room, Billy Jackson and Catering with a Flair; this year's guest speaker, the Mayor of Syracuse, Stephanie Miner; the Hospice of Central New York; Dave Pasinski and Paul Frazier for selling T-Shirts, Mary Maples and Marie Cullen for organizing a wonderful silent auction, Bob Belge for his beautiful handmade clock which was raffled off that evening, Cindy for driving a delegation of residents and staff from the Acres to the Fairgrounds on the big yellow Sandy Creek school bus, and finally, thanks to all who attended the dinner (especially those who had to travel some distance to do so!), and to all who supported the event in whatever way.

Since our last newsletter was mailed, there have been several deaths of former Unity Acres residents. EDWARD DAWES passed away on May 5th in Pulaski where he had been living for the previous four or five weeks. At the age of 50, he died much too young. Ed was one of our 'old-timers', having first come to live at the Acres during the late 1980s. He was a talented carpenter, and has left his mark in many ways at Unity Acres. One of his last major projects was his involvement in last year's renovation of our Sacred Heart Chapel; Ed and Fred Larose collaborated on stripping and refinishing all the pews.

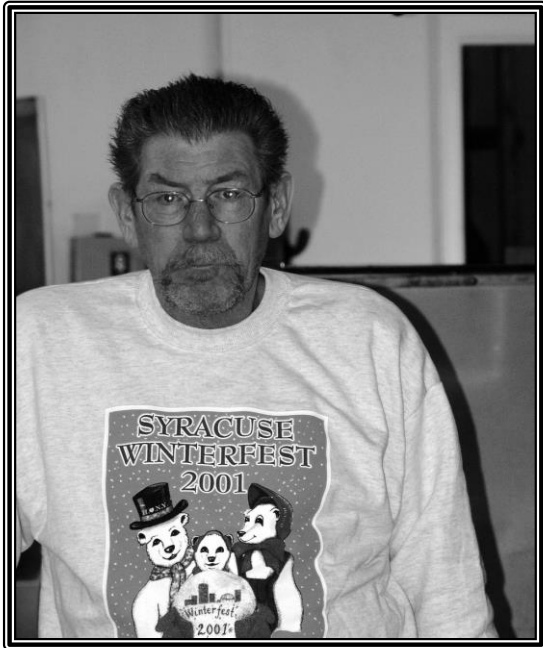


Ed Dawes



Lucky Bergman

WALTER 'LUCKY' BERGMAN died in Oswego on May 9, at the age of 76. Walter had first come to the Acres as a resident in 1984 and remained here until admission to Sunrise Nursing Home in November 2007. A very quiet man, Lucky was nonetheless something of an institution at Unity Acres, and helped out for many years in the clothing room, until declining health prevented from continuing in that capacity.



Mark Coon

MARK COON had left the Acres in late 2009 or early 2010 due to failing health. He stayed with his sister-in-law until his death on May 22 at the age of 59. Mark had been a part of the Unity Acres community since 2001. Like Ed, Mark was very willing to benefit the Acres with his talents and skills as a mason and carpenter; among his projects at the Acres we could point out the floor to the main entrance to B Bldg and the masonry work around the chapel's bell tower. Funerals for Mark, Lucky and Ed were celebrated here with family and friends in attendance. They have been buried at Saint Martin de Porres Cemetery.



Doug Stevenson

DOUG STEVENSON had been living in Blossvale at the time of his death on June 11. He was 69. Doug had been the Cook at Unity Acres until last summer, and for most of the previous ten years. Doug was from Massachusetts, and his children arranged for his remains to be brought home for burial at Medford. We learned as well of the deaths of two former residents, MICHAEL COLLIER and JOHN CUMMINGS. Both John and Mike had been away from Unity Acres for several years, and in neither instance did we learn the full particulars of their deaths, other than that each died in Syracuse, Mike on May 9th, and John in mid-June. Apart from the deaths of our Unity Acres men, another death touched the Acres community. On June 11, ROBERT 'MAC' MCWILLIAMS died at the VA hospital in Syracuse. Mac was a daily presence at Unity Acres for many years. He was a volunteer who spent countless hours appealing for the needs of the men of Unity Acres, and for the needs of the Family Center in Richland. Mac's funeral was celebrated at Summerville Funeral Home, with Father Jones presiding. And so, as we always do in these circumstances, we request your prayers for the happy repose of Ed, Lucky, Mark, Doug, Mike, John and Mac. May they rest in peace.

Stephen Dickhout

May-June Easter-Pentecost Prayer

*“Revere Christ in your hearts... be ready to explain... if anyone asks you for a reason to hope...
But do it gently and respectfully.” -- 1 Peter 3, 15-16*

Come, Holy Spirit, renew the hearts of Your people; enkindle in them the fire of Your love.
Send forth Your Holy Spirit, and we will be recreated, and You shall renew the face of the
earth. Holy Spirit, we pray, may we share with others the reason for hope:
Jesus Christ is risen.

*“The Spirit of the Lord fills the whole world. It holds all things together, and knows
all things together.” -- Wisdom 1, 7*

Spirit of God, unite us, hold us together. Help us to restore unity to a broken, tattered and
divided world, country, community.

Help all whose homes and hearts and lives have been broken and destroyed by famine and
flood, violence and oppression. Help us to help them put their lives together again.

“The love of God has been poured into our hearts by His Spirit living in us...” -- Romans 5, 5.8-11

May that love endure and grow. Empowered by it, may we proclaim that love to all the world.

“Go out to all the world, and tell the good news.” -- Mark 16, 15

Father Robert Jones