

Talk Of The Town

The Monthly Activities Newsletter of the Fay J. Lindner Residences

August 2020

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AUGUST THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER...

In this time of COVID, we all ride a wave of emotions. Imagine the waves that come crashing onto the shore at Robert Moses Beach. The color of the water, a sea foam green, is what inspired the background color of this month's newsletter. Some waves are small and make a cool splash against your skin. Other waves come fast and strong pulling you out with the riptide, turning life upside-down. Waves are a metaphor for life during COVID. Some days are good; for example, you may see a friend, have a thought provoking interaction, make a joke, notice the sun is shining and decide that life is good! Some days though, you may feel the opposite. We relate to the struggle of a beautiful day outside yet it is not your patio day. The past three months feels like forever and you want to see your family. In times like these, you could use someone to lean on. The team here at Gurwin wants you to know that we are here for you. Recreation can set up a video or patio chat for you to see your family. Perhaps all it would take to brighten your day would be to talk to your friend from another wing. Call the front desk; they can connect you! If you have a question for Administration, the ladies who greet you, Andrea and Grace, are our official problem solvers. Patience and Michael are here for you always. If you want to write an email to your family, but need help; call Donna and she can show you how. Maybe you are struggling to get ready in the mornings and feel you need more assistance; Stefanie or Dina can arrange it. Longing for your favorite breakfast meal? Reach out to Debra in Food Service. If you feel under the weather, call Heather in Wellness and the team will fly in and save the day! Whatever it is, we are here for you. The lyrics of the song, "Lean on Me" by Bill Withers, represent the community that is here for you when you need it,



Pictured above: the artwork of resident, Ellen Moffat. This piece is a colored pencil drawing of calm waters. She drew this in her room during the pandemic.

*"Lean on me, when you're not strong,
And I'll be your friend,
I'll help you carry on, For it won't be
long, 'Til I'm gonna need,
Somebody to lean on..."*

*Sincerely,
Your friends
at Gurwin*



Happy August Birthdays



8/2: [Adrienne M.](#)
 8/5: [Gloria S.](#)
 8/6: [Eleanor W.](#)
 8/8: [Lillian P.](#)
 8/9: [Gerald B.](#)
 8/13: [Ruddy Ann F.](#)
 8/19: [Gloria P.](#)
 8/22: [Florence K.](#)
 8/26: [Janet B.](#)
 8/28: [Michael M.](#)
 8/29: [Ellen W.](#)



In lieu of the traditional birthday party, Recreation will distribute balloons, singing telegrams and a special birthday sweet treat!



LET'S GIVE A WARM WELCOME TO:

Marjorie S.
B Wing
3rd floor

Sally D.
E Wing
2nd floor



CALENDAR NOTICE:

Please check Osborne channel 8 for updates. Channel 6 is Recreation's virtual broadcast network. Tune in and join in on the programming that is going on every day.

VIDEO CHAT:



Recreation is offering assistance with virtual video calls using Skype and FaceTime.



If you want to have a virtual phone call, advise your family to email the Fay J. Recreation department directly at:
fajjvideochat@gurwin.org

Please tell them to share the following information:

- Your name and room number.
- Their Skype User Name or FaceTime Phone Number.
- Three dates/times they are available for calls.

After receiving the information listed above, we can initiate video calls.



Friday Night Shabbat Services have started again in the Synagogue. Cathy is hosting the Friday night weekly Candle Lighting outside the Synagogue, and the Rabbi is hosting Friday night service, Saturday morning service and Saturday afternoon Schmooze in the Synagogue.

The Dining Room Patio is closed for Patio Time in August.

It will be used only for Patio Chats and the pending start of the Family Visitation Program. Updates to follow.



PATIO CHATS AT GURWIN

Before and after Patio Time daily. Schedule with Recreation.



“TASTE OF EUROPE” SOCIALS

In July we traveled to Italy, France and Ireland from our seats in the Synagogue! We tasted Italian soup with a French baguette and finished off our afternoon with a spot of tea and Irish Tea cake. Recreation guided us on a tour with virtual views of the countries and the cultures. We will be traveling to Greece in August! Bring your passport!



Resident Column by Yvonne

Happy 94th Birthday, Tony Bennett!



Anthony Dominick Benedetto (otherwise known as world-famous singer Tony Bennett) was born in Long Island City, Queens on August 3, 1926. The son of a grocer and a seamstress, and the youngest of three children, he grew up in the borough's Astoria neighborhood. Bennett inherited his immigrant father's talent in music and art, and began singing at an early age.

At ten years old, young Tony performed at the opening of the Tri-borough Bridge, with Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia at his side. Sadly, that same year his father, who was ailing and no longer able to work, passed away. This was during the midst of the Depression. To help support his mother and siblings Tony began performing as a singing waiter, at local Italian restaurants, at the age of thirteen.

The young Anthony Benedetto was also a burgeoning artist and loved drawing. In elementary school he was known as the class caricaturist. He had hoped to become a commercial artist. He took the entrance exam to the renowned School of Industrial Art (now known as the High School of Art and Design), and was accepted as a student.

In his many interviews and in his autobiography, *The Good Life*, he has expressed his gratitude for his former high school: "I had a wonderful experience. They taught you the basics and techniques of all the art genres and I soon knew this was the real deal for becoming an artist. I owe my singing career to my music teacher, Mr. Jesse Sonberg. At the time, I was torn between my two passions of singing and painting, and he encouraged me to stick with the singing, so I did. But I have been fortunate enough to continue painting and it has become a wonderful second career for me as well."

As much as Anthony Benedetto enjoyed his classes at this school for professional art, he wound up dropping out at age sixteen to continue supporting his family, and returned to performing as a singing waiter. In November 1944 he was drafted into the Army, saw heavy combat as an infantryman in France and Germany, and helped liberate a concentration camp in Bavaria – a life-changing experience.

Returning to New York after his discharge in 1946, he took vocal classes at the American Theatre Wing under the G.I. Bill, while resuming his singing at restaurants, as well as night clubs – using the stage name Joe Bari. Three years later he caught the eye of Pearl Bailey, who asked him to open for her in Greenwich Village. Bob Hope, whom Bailey had invited to the show, was so impressed with "Joe Bari" (Benedetto) that he convinced him to go on the road with him. Hope also told him his stage name wasn't memorable enough and suggested he shorten his real name to Tony Bennett. And the rest is history.

Bennett was signed to Columbia Records in 1950; his first big hit was *Because Of You* in 1951, selling over a million copies. Among his top ten hits were *Rags To Riches*, *I Left My Heart In San Francisco* and *The Shadow Of Your Smile*. All in all, he has recorded ninety-nine albums and eighty-one singles, and sold over fifty million records worldwide. He has performed for eleven presidents, has won twenty Grammy Awards (including a Lifetime Achievement Award), two Emmy Awards, was named an NEA Jazz Master, honored by the Kennedy Center, and was the recipient of the 2017 Gershwin Prize for Popular Song.

One award that he did not anticipate receiving was an honorary high school diploma. (This is something I was personally responsible for making happen, as president of the alumni association of the very same high school that he had attended.) On June 29, 2005 Tony Bennett spoke at our commencement ceremony and accepted his long-deserved diploma – sixty years after he would have graduated.

Performing for more than seven decades, Bennett is currently booked through March 2021. Having grown up in poverty, his life has been a true rags-to-riches story. "I try to always stay positive, and not dwell on the negativity," he said. "I truly believe that life is a gift, and every day is an opportunity to learn something new or just appreciate being alive." *Happy 94th Birthday, Tony Bennett, and many more years of greatness!*