



# JOYFUL TRANSITIONS

## at Marian Hall

SUMMER 2007

### Remembering Sisters Annette and Louise

“In the early months of 2007, Marian Hall Home suffered the loss of two of its former administrators, both of whom set a great example for me to follow.

**Sister Annette Kuchta, O.S.F.** died on April 14<sup>th</sup> after a long struggle with failing health. She was the first administrator of Marian Hall, serving from 1971 to 1993. A licensed practical nurse, Sister



Annette was justly proud of her ministry here, and will be remembered for many years of dedicated service to our residents and our facility. In her later years, Sister Annette served as Marian Hall’s receptionist, greeting visitors and phone callers with her pleasant voice and a smile.

**Sister Mary Louise Vrana, O.S.F.** died on January 24<sup>th</sup> after a brief illness. She was Sister Annette’s successor as administrator of Marian Hall, and led us



admirably for four years. Prior to that time, Sister Louise served a term as Provincial Superior of the then Pittsburgh Province of the School Sisters of St. Francis. She is remembered in particular for her kind demeanor and sense of humor. Before her death, Sister Louise enjoyed having her sister, Helen Mihalik, come to live at Marian Hall, where they enjoyed many visits and sisterly chats.

At Marian Hall, we are saddened by the loss to us of these two women of faith, whose leadership and commitment served our facility so well. But we also know that they will make this next transition with the same grace they evidenced while making so many other transitions on earth. May they rest in peace.

I am also pleased that we will be planting two trees on the grounds in remembrance of Sisters Annette and Louise. As we watch the trees grow, we’ll be able to recall how they watched Marian Hall grow under their leadership.”

*Sister Marian Sgriccia  
Marian Hall Administrator*

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## Herman Hits a Hundred!

On March 24, a large crowd of family, friends, residents, and staff gathered at Marian Hall to honor



**Herman Millstine**, who reached his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday four days later!

Born and raised in Homewood, the oldest of seven children, Herman and his wife Mary (who passed away in 1988) had two sons, with five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. A printing management graduate of Carnegie Tech, Herman was a pressman for various Pittsburgh-area printers for 54 years.

A resident here for five years, the always-active Herman has become one of our foremost resident-volunteers, greeting others and assisting them and our staff in many

ways. As Kate Guay says, “Herman is always ready to help keep things running smoothly.” His son Herman adds, “He has been that way all his life.” Surely his drive to help others and his friendly nature are two attributes that keep him a “healthy happy hundred.”

This August we will celebrate **Louise Decker’s** 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday. We look forward to more milestone birthday celebrations in the coming years as 41% of our residents are now over 90!

## Look at What’s New!

We are in the process of replacing bedroom furniture at Marian Hall. Most of our rooms will have new dressers and nightstands.

This is our first major furniture replacement at Marian Hall and we are all excited about this new look. Stop in and check out the new furniture when you visit. Our residents will be happy to show you their new rooms.

## Ah Winter ...

People in western PA will remember this past winter as one that was very slow to start, but when it did – it definitely stuck around way too long! And it produced a double-whammy for residents and staff. A mid-February storm forced a lot of scrambling as iced-in staff members struggled heroically to get here. Sometimes as small a thing as what direction our cars were parked in made all the difference. Thanks to all staff members for your efforts to keep things running smoothly.



When that got over – wham again!



A virus, late to arrive in April that was widespread through residents and staff, kept us all hopping

through a very long week. Fortunately no serious or lasting illnesses were encountered, the flu bug passed, and “normal” life was soon restored. Ah winter ... **it’s a great season to look back on!**

## ABOUT MARIAN HALL



*For further information or to register for admission to Marian Hall Home, please see our Web site at [www.marianhall.org](http://www.marianhall.org), or call us at 412 761 1999.*

Marian Hall Home has been in operation since 1971. We are licensed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and are inspected annually by the Commonwealth’s Department of Public Welfare. We are one of the few Catholic-sponsored Personal Care Homes in the six-county region comprising the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

As a Personal Care Home, our residents must be ambulatory and able to feed themselves. We offer them assistance with daily living in a family atmosphere

that includes many scheduled activities and 24-hour staffing, monitoring of their medication, and respite care.

We currently have more than 60 private furnished rooms (personal furnishings are acceptable) with a call-bell system, the majority of which include private bathrooms. All laundry, linen, and housekeeping services are included.

Our beautiful chapel provides everyone an opportunity for spiritual reflection and growth.

*Joyful Transitions*, a newsletter about the people of Marian Hall Home and the activities here, is published for the benefit of residents, their families, families of former residents, staff members, and anyone interested in happenings at our home in Bellevue. Copyright © 2007 Marian Hall Home, Inc. All rights reserved.

## Mothers' Day Tea at Marian Hall

On Saturday, May 12th, many of our residents joined with family members and friends for what has become a Marian Hall tradition - celebrating at our Annual Mothers' Day Tea. These photos recall the good times!



## UPCOMING

**Saturday, August 18**

Family Picnic - Marian Hall Grounds

**Saturday, October 13**

Autumn Cabaret with Jessica Lee  
Auditorium

For further information, call  
412 761 1999.

*"Experience suggests it doesn't matter so much how you got here, as what you do after you arrive."*

## Welcome to Marian Hall's New Residents!

We are pleased that the following individuals have joined us recently.

**Sr. Ann Margaret Bolf**

**Leona Briski**

**Mary Ann Brutz**

**Brother Paschal Dierks**

**Margie Havrylak**

**Sr. Julie Jacko**

**Sr. Genevieve Mary Jurick**

**Helen Kralosky**

**Agnes Laitsch**

**Ida Lewis**

**Elsie Martin**

**Helen Mihalik**

**Lucille Rau**

**Joseph Reinhart**

**Ann Ruprecht**

**Rita Terlecki**

**Mary Louise Thompson**

## The Decks are Open!

Thanks to all gardeners from the Arts & Crafts group, the flowers are planted and the decks look great. We've also started some plants and vegetables from seed, and they're planted in the garden off the first floor walkway.



## The Short and The Long of Funding

"Each year we host **fundraisers** for the short-term benefit of Marian Hall. Just this past February, we hosted our annual *Night at the Races* – nearly always a top source of support. Current residents, friends, and staff members help us meet **day-to-day** expenses and build our Benevolent Care Fund through the fun they have at fundraisers. To all of you who

participate in our fundraisers – thank you very much and please continue to support them.

But if it's in your power, consider making a contribution to help meet our **long-term financial obligations**. Even small amounts, when invested with others, can grow and help significantly.

Memorial contributions, bequests made through wills,

endowments, gift annuities that benefit Marian Hall, or donations from IRAs (especially in 2007) are some ways to help. These can give you a great feeling of inner satisfaction while benefiting others – not to mention tax advantages that may accrue to you. If you find such a gift may be possible, please contact me to discuss in detail.

*Sister Maureen*



Marian Hall Home  
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## Person-Centered Care at Marian Hall

Sister Marian and Kate Guay received a grant covering expenses to travel to Chicago last October to attend a conference on **person-centered care** sponsored by the National Religious Retirement Office. Person-centered care focuses on creating ‘a culture of aging that is life-affirming, satisfying, humane, and meaningful.’ All these ideas are in perfect harmony with the Marian Hall mission. An environment that respects every person’s life history and preferences, honors their identity, and assures meaningful personalized activities begins with building solid relationships between residents and caregivers.

While at the conference, Kate and Sister Marian participated in rigorous sessions directed toward helping them become good trainers. Over the last few months they have been leading Marian Hall staff members through the techniques they themselves learned in Chicago. This is straightforward – what is not is the understanding that a change in culture is happening whenever fundamental techniques are changing! Caregivers here are asked to “see through the eyes of residents” when they are meeting and helping them. This is not always an easy thing to do, but it is surely **the right thing to do.**

### Marian Hall Board of Directors

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### Marian Hall Home Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide quality care, to respect the dignity of the residents, to enable them to remain as independent as possible in a joyful and safe environment.