Full Life ‘My Way’ Suits Senior Just Fine

Home Safety Modification Program Ensures Independence for Poole

As son Kelly says: Mom, you can never tell what you’re going to do next.

From garden delights to Frank Sinatra, Joyce Poole has always lived with zest.

Joyce and her husband moved in 1956 to a downstairs apartment in a home on a hillside between Verona and Madison. Barely settled into the apartment, and pregnant with their third child, the couple then learned the home was up for sale. Never regretting the decision to buy the home and stay, Joyce has been accumulating years of friendships, stories and calamities. Memorable, for example, was the time that nearby Wingra Stone damaged the home’s concrete-block foundation—along with many others—due to a blasting mistake in the nearby quarry.

Then there was the time that the nearby road was raised six feet. Joyce’s home faces the road which is uphill; as a result, the slope and driveway became steeper and dangerous in winter. Joyce, always one to find solutions, created a small parking pad at the top of the driveway next to the road for winter use.

Joyce also made good use of the sloping hillside yard. She and her son Kelly began to craft flower beds, retaining walls and garden paths. Birdhouses, benches, a tool shed, and garden sculptures—especially toads—arrived bit by bit. Perennials bloom all summer now, adding flashes of color.

When she wasn’t gardening or caring for four children (“That last one was a total surprise,” she says with characteristic humor), Joyce was employed full time. Most notably, she spent 22 years as an administrative assistant when the Coliseum was constructed and when the World Dairy Expo was launched. “Did you know that the big globe was actually two silo tops put together?” she says.

A conversationalist, Joyce readily shares stories about entertainers she met, including Frank Sinatra. “He liked to invite the military to his concerts, and give them free front row seats. Now, the mafia always gets some front row seats, but the service folks did, continued on page 4
Our Mission
Our mission is to support adults as they manage their independence by providing a variety of care services, skilled home health care and housing options to maintain health and well being.

NOTES FROM RITA

Creating a New Memory Care Option in Madison
Independent Living, Inc. has been helping seniors since 1973, with an exceptional array of in-home services, senior housing options, and home health care. We’ve grown to become one of the most unique nonprofit service agencies in the county. We anticipate more growth, and we’re using our decades of experience to prepare for what we see coming next: exponential demand for memory care.

The Wisconsin Alzheimer’s Institute estimates 50 percent of people with Alzheimer’s are not diagnosed; among those who are diagnosed, 50 percent are not receiving proper treatment. The Alzheimer’s Association estimates 1 in 8 will get the disease after age 65; at age 85 and older, almost half will have Alzheimer’s. Dementia caregiving is inevitable.

Also consider: The projected 10-year growth in the number of seniors in Dane County is 60 percent, from 50,144 in 2010 to 80,641 in 2020. Demand for senior living communities will rise, and proprietary research shows that demand for memory care services will increase as a component of these communities.

In response, Independent Living, Inc. is building a new senior living community in Madison that will have independent apartments and assisted living, AND two significant memory care options: on-site residence in our housing, and on-site programs for those who live in nearby neighborhoods. This new property will be built on Madison’s north east side. At this location, we may offer a service new to this part of Madison: adult day care with an overnight program. We are researching the level of interest now, and if you would like to participate in a survey, please call Sue Berg at 268-9628.

It’s important to us that we develop solid programs. We’re seeking the input of field experts, researchers, caregivers and others to help us create the best model of care. We’re also seeking financial support to underwrite memory care program development as well as hire and train great staff. If you would like to help us with a donation, please contact us at 274-7900. We also maintain a list of people who are interested in updates about this project. If you would like to be added to this list, please let us know. Again, just call us at 274-7900.

Rita Giovannoni, CEO
Our Programs

We help you or someone you know remain independent at home.
Thank you, Dane County community, for trusting your care to us for 40 years.
We look forward to caring for you for years to come.
Call for information today 608-274-7900

Supportive Services
Caregiver Respite
Evening Meals on Wheels
Financial Management and Counseling
Home Care
Home Chore
Home Safety Modification
Home Share
Medication Management
Transportation

Home Health Care
Independent Health Care, Inc. (Medicare-certified home health care agency)

Services from Volunteers
Telephone Reassurance
Friendly Visiting
Kibble on Wheels
Chore Corps
Health Advocate, plus more

Senior Living
The Gardens, Madison
Segoe Gardens, Madison
McKee Park Apartments, Fitchburg
Olympic Village, Sun Prairie

*Your local connection to an independent life since 1973*

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Portraits of an Artist

Centennial celebrations are perfect opportunities to combine joyful parties and contemplative moments.

On the occasion of her 100th birthday in August, artist Carmen Peck has agreed to a retrospective exhibit of her oil paintings and watercolors. Peck is a long-time Madison resident now living at Segoe Gardens, an assisted living community at Independent Living.

Carmen Barbulesco Peck was born to Romanian parents living in Belgium on the day the Germans invaded in 1914. Moving to Bucharest, Paris, then London, the family eventually settled in Dayton, Ohio. Carmen’s father, a radio expert, worked with aviation pioneer Orville Wright.

After graduating from the Dayton Art Institute, Carmen was quickly recognized as a gifted artist. One of her portraits was accepted for a juried show at the Chicago Art Institute, and reproduced in full color in the Sunday Chicago Tribune.

In 1939, she married Hal Peck, an engineer and University of Wisconsin graduate. They moved to Fairport, N.Y., where they raised two sons, Dan and Jeff. Carmen continued as an artist and art teacher, earning accolades for her landscape and portrait paintings. Her work hung in numerous exhibitions, including the 1945 Perinton Historical Society one-woman art show.

After Hal died in 1965, Carmen traveled. In 1971, she settled in Madison, where son Jeff and his spouse were graduate students. For ten years, she was a docent at the Elvehjem (now Chazen) Museum of Art which influenced her foray into watercolor painting.

In 1992, the Perinton Historical Society recreated Carmen’s one-person show; people from around the country loaned their paintings.

Now the extraordinary work of Carmen Peck can be seen again. The exhibition, through August, is mounted on the main floor of The Gardens Independent Living (adjacent to Segoe Gardens), 602 N. Segoe Rd., Madison.

Pictured is Carmen Peck with a 1942 portrait of herself with son Dan. Photo by Syndi Dobson. Condensed from an article written by Jeff Peck.
too. He had busloads of sailor boys come from Great Lakes Naval Station on Lake Michigan and he warmly greeted each one,” Joyce tells. “Sinatra liked to have tea in his dressing room and on stage, and we bought a new tea set from Manchester’s Department Store. Sinatra took it—he was expected to do that, like a souvenir—and then he sent a thank you note!” Joyce adds. Other celebrities Joyce met include Simon and Garfunkel, Sonny and Cher, as well as Neil Diamond early in their careers, and Lawrence Welk, who agreed to meet Joyce’s mother and made her day. Eventually, Joyce retired but rather than be idle she established her own word and data processing business, A Woman and Her Keyboard.

“I did that business for several years before I finally stopped a couple of years ago,” she says. “I’m in my 80s and I am busy. I tell people that no one in their 80s is done living yet. We’re not getting older, we’re getting better.”

Not even mini strokes can stop Joyce, although they nearly stopped emergency help. Emergency responders weren’t able to get a gurney into the house, due to the steep slippery sloped driveway (worse in winter) and the placement of steps to the front door with a wrought iron guard and handrail.

“They had to haul me out in a chair, which was risky,” Joyce laments.

Living on a fixed income, however, provided no possibility for Joyce to modify her modest home to accommodate a gurney. Instead, she talked with Peg McNeill, case manager with the Belleville Senior Center. Aware of numerous senior resources, Peg knew about a county grant managed by Independent Living that helps qualified seniors pay for home safety changes.

From Independent Living, Jonathan Rossall, program manager, and Jerrold Woolley, licensed carpenter, scrutinized the property and after some serious consideration, devised an innovative “bridge.” It led from the front door over a grass patio to a small level area on the slope. Plus, outdoor steps from the road to access the bridge were improved with a sturdy handrail and a short ramp with slip-resistant tape.

“I’m telling you I don’t know what I would have done without Peg, Jonathan and Jerrold. If the ambulance has to come for me again, this time it will be a lot safer to get out the house and up the hill to the road where the ambulance waits,” Joyce says. “I will be forever grateful for the safety they have provided for me.”

For information about adaptations to make a home safer for seniors, please call 608-268-9635 direct to the home safety modification manager. Or email info@independentlivinginc.org.

Carpenter Jerrold Woolley works on the “bridge.”
In Honor and Memory: De Duplissis

Diana “De” DuPlissis was just one of those people who enjoyed helping others. Born in 1954, she excelled at customer service, which showed through her various occupations from landscaping to driving a cab to organizing events. When cancer ended her ability to work for a living, De decided she could still make a difference in the world around her as a volunteer.

Despite some physical limitations, De was a confident driver and chose to volunteer for Evening Meals on Wheels delivery. In April 2014, De was presented an Outstanding Volunteer award from Independent Living, Inc., for six years of dedication to delivering evening Meals on Wheels. During that time, De quietly assisted many elderly meals clients. One was a gentleman who shared her passion for their hometown Chicago Cubs team. De laminated a team roster so that he could keep track of players while watching televised games. She was just like that, says her life partner, Jan Schneider. “She was fond of her customers on her route.”

Staying physically healthy was important to De. She viewed fitness as a way to fight illness, and to focus on something other than cancer. It made sense, considering she was a high school basketball standout who enjoyed athletics. “That was back in the day when team sports for girls were all intramural programs,” Jan says. “She went to college on a basketball scholarship.”

After moving to Madison, De eventually worked for Lands End in customer service until a brain tumor caused speech difficulties. Undeterred, De earned a degree at MATC in meetings and event planning, which turned out to be a natural fit. “She was always so well organized, a good planner,” Jan says. “She had an opportunity after graduation to help AARP plan statewide events with the Medicare Part D roll out, and she really enjoyed that.”

De enjoyed activity, socialization, friends and family. In fact, a baby sister gave De her lifelong nickname because “Diana” was too difficult for the youngster to pronounce. A good cook, avid reader, gamer and gardener who loved roses, De shared a love of dogs and cats with Jan. After eight years of dealing with cancer, De passed away April 21, 2014.
Thank You to Our Volunteers

With this issue of our newsletter, we recognize 274 volunteers and organizations who have generously shared their time to help seniors in the last year. Our previous newsletter listed Meals on Wheels volunteers. In this issue, we honor volunteers who have participated through any of these programs: Board of Directors, Chore Corps, Computer, Event Support, Friendly Visiting, Kibble on Wheels, Nutrition Services/Kitchen Help, Office/Administrative, Telephone Reassurance and Volunteer-by-Design. As noted by Dan Barlow, manager of volunteer services, “The impact of this group of volunteers is remarkable. They have improved the quality of life for hundreds of people living in Dane County. Each volunteer saw the gifts they had to give and chose to throw them like stones into the pond that is our community just because they wanted to create a ripple of positive change. A simple ‘thank you’ could never repay what they have done; however, that same simple ‘thank you’ is more than they have ever asked for.”

Steven Acker
Daniel Andersen
Elise H. Andersen-King
Elizabeth Anderson
Susan P. Anderson
Austin J. Anderson
Barbara Andrews
Melanie R. Antos
Andrea W. Ashmore
Judy A. Balistreri
Judy Ballweg
Els Barho
Pamela J. Barsness
Jason J. Bartel
Kevin M. Barthrom
Nathan A. Becker
Brett Behling
Joyce Behrend
Dawn M. Benway
Sue Berg
Lorinda A. Bertz
Patrick E. Bertz
Meghan A. Bessett
Patricia L. Bewick
Lindsey M. Blazel
Sam Blum
Mary Blum
Mary Bolland
Debbie L. Borchering
Larry G. Borchering
Michael J. Borland
Jeffrey D. Bowles
Dianne C. Brakarsh
Colleen R. Brehun
Kathi Brown
Mary Buchner
Laura E. Bunn
Susanne Capp
Karen A. Carson
Patricia J. Carney
Bruce Caucutt
Diane Caucutt
Gail J. Cech
Ashley N. Chatman
Vivek Chenan
Robin L. Chene
Kimberly Christensen
Peter H. Christman
Kaye Christopher
Barbara Claborn
Geraldine Clark
Dawn M. Cloutier
Ditra L. Comer
Jon D. Conley
Starla B. Cook
Frances E. Corry
Linda Crubauh
Prajita T. Date
Kali K. Deans
Nathan J. Dhuey
Irene L. Diamond
David M. Drenk
Leah A. Dudley
Diana DuPlessis
Ruth Edson
Emilet Elbert
Cindi Erickson
Jay Esser
Robert Evans
Nicolle K. Farris
Martha V. Feemster
Charlotte L. Felder
Steven Fox
Lois Frank
Dak Hon Fung
Koon C. Fung
Cheryl Gandolph
Audrey J. Gaumann
Kathy Gehl
Patricia Geiger
Elizabeth Geiger
Robert Genson
Tytler Gilcrest
Joseph R. Giordano
Rita Giovanni
Saul C. Glazer
Amy J. Goedert
Mariah Goehring
Michael Goetz
Ann Gonzagowski
Michael E. Grasmick
Gina Greda
Vivita Hahn
Daniel A. Halpern
Mary J. Halpern
Lori M. Hanna
David Hardel
Ann Hardel
Chelesy A. Harris
Melissa E. Harrison
Cleotus (Kay) Hayes
Linda Hebard
Carroll Heideman
Jessica L. Heiden
Amanda L. Heit
Herb M. Held
Michael C. Helland
Thomas R. Hendricks
Erik H. Hennessey
Courtney Henry
Rachel K. Her
Lauren A. Her
Jon E. Herrman
Michelle M. Hicklin
Loretta A. Himmelsbach
Yvette Hodgkinson
Sarah J. Hope
Caroline Horn
Keesia A. Hyser
Karim M. Ibele
Jessica Ives
Nancy Jackman
Paige M. Janquist
Debra K. Jefferson
Marcella Johnson
Kevin W. Johnson
Nicolle L. Johnson
Kathleen A. Johnson
Andrew O. Kadlec
Jill L. Kaiser
Emily Kara
Patricia Y. Karls
John Keating
Laurie G. Kelly
Karen L. Kenney
James J. Kenney
Jennifer Knudson
Marianne M. Korol
Jacklyn D. Kranz
Polly H. Kuelbs
Rob Kutz
Joshua Kurzbach
Sandra Kurzbuch
Cathy Kuske
Abigail K. Kutzke
Jenna L. Lane
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Linda Lane
Emily A. Larson
Peter Leege
Michael D. Leonovicz
Shanna Lindquist
Stephanie L. Loger
Michael Losenegger
Amy C. Lowe
Michelle L. Lukas
Jean MacCubbin
Elise R. Malone
Brenda A. Mancl
Cristhabel Martinez
Katherine A. Mathes
Claire E. Mayer
Barbara J. McNabb
Erik L. McNeill
Gyna M. Meneses
Erik T. Mette
Tonia L. Midtun
Deepika Mohan
Maria Montello
Erinn L. Morris
Doris Mueller
Abigail Musselman
Angela L. Neidigh
Dories K. Neis
Meghan K. Nilan
Katherine Odell
Janice L. Olofsen
Sommer Olli
Ryan L. Olson
Allyson K. Ostrander
Rae A. Page
Neil Paque
Ione Peschi
Patricia T. Peters
Marjorie Pope
William Pope
Anthony V. Pullara
Gail K. Pullara
Asuk Rambf
Christopher S. Ramos
Richard Reinig
Laura A. Reinke
Robin M. Reisdorf
Chris Rewey
Rachel R. Rodriquez
Racheal G. Rowlinson
Colleen M. Rude
Karen A. Sallander
Niki Samborski
Mark Samborski
Chris Santaromanza
Carrie Jo Schaub
Ann M. Scheele
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David M. Schmidt
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Anna M. Schmidt
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Jie Song
Bethany Spartz
Greg Stravinski
Terry E. Strong
Kristin Sumberl
Melissa A. Tealey
Tenisha M. Thompson
Dennis A. Thompson
Lois Thoptyo
Luke W. Waggoner
Theodore M. Waldbllig
Connie D. Wall
Cheryl E. Wampole
Richard A. Will
Corrina Wells
Heidi J. Wenner
Mallory Wheaton
Ann L. Whilaker
Amber M. Whitehouse
Stephanie A. Wild
Avi J. Wilkerson
Chloe A. Wilkerson
Kelly M. Wisch
Rachel Witthoft
Joanne Woellner
Lisa Woon
Brian Yankie
Amr F. Yassin
Susan Webber
Brian K. Young
Molly L. Yunke
Haocheng Zhen
Alliant Energy
CUNA Mutual Group Foundation
Wisconsin Energy
Edgewood High School
Piacon Corp.
Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corp.
Zimbrick Inc.
What Makes a Community Special?

Whether an apartment community is filled with college freshmen, young families or retired octogenarians, some have that special atmosphere, that sense of belonging that is so inviting. We asked a resident at Independent Living’s McKee Park Apartments to share a bit about her life at the place she calls home.

Katie LeTourneau

It’s almost impossible to use just a few words to describe effusive, witty and energetic Katie LeTourneau. A resident at McKee Park Apartments for 10 years, this petite Madison native is ready to volunteer or party at a moment’s notice.

For example, in May, Katie was busy enjoying Italia Festa in Fitchburg. The daughter of Sicilian immigrants, Katie is proud of her Caravello family heritage and delighted in teaching people how to make biscotti. She’s been a member of the long-established Italian American Women’s Club since 1993, and was honored as Woman of the Year in 2004. In 2012, on the occasion of the festival’s 100th anniversary, they named her Centennial Queen of Festa.

“I’m popular only because I’m old,” she laughs. “At Festa this year, I must have been kissed a thousand times by the kids whose parents were my friends and they’re not around anymore.”

After Festa in May, Katie then partied with family and friends in early June at an all-encompassing graduation-anniversary-birthday event at Rennebohm Park. It was an early celebration for Katie’s birthday, her 97th, and the first of several parties. “The Club has a birthday celebration each month, and a week later, the apartment will have a birthday party for us with June birthdays. I tell you, after my birthday, it’s going to be dullsville for awhile.”

Katie is the last living sibling of nine children. Married in 1942, she and her husband Joseph lived in Madison and raised two sons, Jim and Jack. In 1975, her husband passed away. Katie continued to stay active, especially in The Good Shepherd Catholic Parish.

The famous Madison neighborhood where Katie grew up and then raised a family—Greenbush—is long gone but former neighbors stay connected, including with Katie. That’s how she found her way to McKee Park Apartments, a senior living community managed by Independent Living. Two friends from “The Bush” lived at McKee.

“When I was ready to move, it mattered to me that I had a way to go to church,” Katie says emphatically. “My friends at McKee offered to drive me every Sunday if I moved.”

Conveniently located across from McKee Park, the apartment community keeps track of each other. Katie greets people by name, and looks after them even when they don’t live there. Just recently, she made fresh biscotti for student volunteers working on the landscape around the building. And she’s expecting tomatoes from the raised garden this fall. “I have the best luck with tomatoes in this garden. I’ve never had such good tomatoes,” she proclaims.
Sept. 22 Golf Outing Raises Fun, Funds for Independent Living

What better way to start the Autumn season than swinging golf clubs on a Madison golf course? Mark your calendars now for Monday, September 22, and play for fun and charity!

Registration is now open for the 1st Annual Independent Living Golf Outing at Hawks Landing Golf Club. Join the fun with a great day of food, camaraderie and golf scramble at Hawks Landing. Foursomes are encouraged, with a shotgun start set for noon. Information is available at http://bit.ly/ILIGolfOuting. Or contact Nicole Schultz, director of fund development at Independent Living, at 608-268-9631 or email nschultz@independentlivinginc.org.

A local nonprofit, Independent Living has been helping seniors and adults with disabilities manage their independence for more than 40 years. All proceeds from the golf outing benefit seniors and adults with disabilities in Dane County. More information is at www.IndependentLivingInc.org.

Partnering with Independent Living for the golf outing is Wegner CPAs, a full-service accounting firm with offices in Madison, Baraboo, Pewaukee, and Janesville. More information is at www.wegnercpas.com.