

Why did I chose this job at my age?

From my first adult work experience I was interested in how people interact and work together to achieve goals.

As a psychologist I was trained in a burgeoning new science called group dynamics: how people behave in groups, teams, communities.

Many of you have heard people say that our community is unique. Studies have shown that the tendency to develop problems of cliquishness, feelings of isolation and other negative reactions is endemic to large residential settings. It is seldom seen here.

In my 23 years here I have found both personally and professionally that our care for and about each other is dependable and truly unique. Of course our size and close living make this possible, but something special here invites each new resident to join this remarkably caring community.

Change is inevitable here as everywhere. One major change was our living much longer than the Life Care financial planners made provision for. Then came the pandemic, disrupting everything. Much of the fruitful committee structure enriching our lives together fell largely into disuse. We increasingly became dependent on the paid leadership to entertain and stimulate us.

Can we take a look at where we are now and ask the question: How do we want to function?

To help frame this question, Doris Howard has revised the binder in which to sign up for the committees that may help us promote our community life. It lives on the table in the dining room corridor with the bell and coin bank. We encourage you to browse through it and consider where you can make your best contribution.

Today we want to emphasize two outstanding needs.

The first is the monthly birthday celebration, specifically decorating the table for the celebrants. Yvonne will describe the what is required.

The other need was noted in the Residents Satisfaction Survey: the need for more mental stimulation. This comes under the aegis of the Activities Committee. We need to take a thorough look at what would energize our thinking, satisfy our curiosity, promote lively discussion – and find the people and resources that can feed this need.