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 clliqueishness,

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.