Amy Johnson Residence

Spring/Summer 2026
MMXXVI Number 3

Our bird feeder is our access to wildlife in the city. We have two mother turkeys that come by bringing their chicks. One hen has three chicks, the other nine, which makes for a lot of activity on the lawn. The mothers dig their claws into the dirt and do this back kick that brings the dirt and fallen bird seed flying up while the chicks circle around and peck at the ground. We have enjoyed watching their babies get bigger. At other times, a group of male turkeys come by, sometimes up to four or five of them and just appear to hang out on the grass or belly up to the bird bath. The bird feeder also brings different types of birds naturally, but at the base we also see rabbits and squirrels.

The seedlings we planted in our raised garden bed have grown bigger and a bud has appeared on one of the zinnia stalks and there are some buds on the sweet pea vines.

Thank you

We appreciate all the kindness and generosity we receive from so many. Our thanks to our head cook, Leah, for her clothing and DVD donations. We thank Ron and Jackie Dexter for also donating household goods to us. Jennie Thiesen and Stephanie Bowron came by, and we enjoyed singing songs together with Jennie and hearing Stephanie play the piano. We are grateful for them sharing their time and talents with us. Tony and Sandy Menke brought us homemade cookies that were delicious, and we enjoyed them thoroughly. We appreciate their thoughtfulness and Tony's visit. We thank Duane Jagiello for his monthly commitment in bringing communion to us.

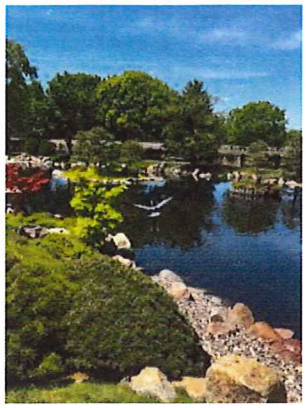
Activities and Outings

Cheryl, Kathleen, Mike, and Yeng celebrated May Day with a visit to the Tulip House located off Lake of the Isles in Minneapolis. The Tulip House sits on the corner of the block and features hundreds of tulips in the yard and on the boulevard wrapping around the sidewalk and the house in different colors and varieties of tulips. Other houses on the block also put on a smaller tulip display making the block look festive with color and a welcome vision of spring.

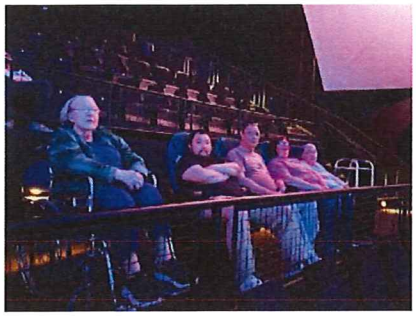
Afterward we drove around the lake and passed the Mary Tyler Moore house that was featured on the show where Mary was supposed to have lived. We stopped at the pier on Lake Calhoun and got out and looked out across the water before getting back into the van and driving home.

Kathleen and Yeng made a trip to the Normandale Community College to see the Japanese Garden that they have on their campus. It feels like a secret garden tucked away with a marsh on one

side and the college campus on the other. For a quarter, Kathleen bought some fish food for the koi, although some sneaky and speedy sunfish often nabbed the food before the koi did. There was also a heron posing for photos by the edge of the water or it would take off and glide across the pond to a small island rock. The azaleas were in bloom with pink petals making for a perfect postcard visit.



We made a return trip to the Omni Theater in the Science Museum to see a film on volcanoes.



Luanne, Cheryl, Mike, Kathleen, and Yeng crossed continents and stared face down into the mouths of the popping and swirling lava lakes in Hawaii, Indonesia, Ethiopia, and South America. There was footage of the massive destruction caused by flowing lava that would take out anything that stood in its way. Our amazing planet!

On Memorial Day, Luanne, Gary, Mike, Kathleen, and Yeng honored the day at Fort Snelling, the historic site at the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers. We heard a Drum and Fife band and a swing style band, we looked at rooms decorated in period style. It was a warm day, and we were thankful they had a tram to take us from the visitor center to the fort itself. Fort Snelling has special significance to both Gary and Luanne as they have family buried in the cemetery.

We cooked up a storm with Peter. A Japanese dish called Tonkatsu was prepared. Luanne, Joan, Rick, Gary, Carla, Dan J., Marilyn, Lee, Cheryl, Susan, Mike, Kathleen, and Dan Z. were there to offer either a hand to help or some quality control taste testing.

Our good friends Stephanie Bowron and Jennie Theisen came by and played music and sang with us. We sang everything from "Moon River" to Cyndi Lauper's "Time After Time" to the Broadway musical classic, "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning" from *Oklahoma* in honor of Wanda Nusted, a much-loved and missed former resident.

We made our monthly trips to the library. Joan checked out books on the saints, Kathleen picked up a book on Pope John Paul II, Cheryl found some stories by Chekov and novels by Willa Cather, Marilyn got to go *Around the World in 80 Days* with Jules Verne and some other novels of adventure, and Yeng checked out a serious and intimidating book on mathematics! Gary looked at the magazines in the comfortable periodical lounge. Our shopping adventures brought us back to St. Patrick's Guild, where Luanne, Kathleen found some meaningful items for themselves and some for their fellow resident Joan. Yeng did some browsing.

We went to Hmong Village and got lost in all the different booths and merchandise. Kathleen found some fabric that will become a skirt and Yeng bought some soap, and they both got food from the many food vendors there.

We went to Great Clips for a shave or a shape or a cut. Those getting primped and primed for summer were Yeng, Gary, Dan Z., and Mike. We hit our

other staples: Target, Dollar Tree, Walmart, Goodwill, stocking up on supplies for ourselves, or for the house, and sometimes things just for fun. Our TMA Christine got a rousing Bingo game going. Mark, Kathleen, Joan, and Susie all won prizes.

We had two May birthdays. We celebrated Gary's birthday at the Golden Corral. Marilyn, Cheryl, Mike, Yeng and Dan Z. joined in the celebratory meal. Then we had a pizza party at Green Mill for Rick's birthday. Other than the birthday boy himself, there was Luanne, Marilyn, and Kathleen to indulge in this St. Paul favorite. Susie, one of our June birthdays chose a house favorite, Great Moon Chinese Buffet for her birthday. Dan Z., Cheryl, and Gary were there to share the day.
We celebrated our other June birthday girl, Carla, with caramel sundaes at the house. We played some of Carla's favorite songs and sang and wished her a hearty Happy Birthday.

Gary, Cheryl, Susan, Dan Z., Yeng, Kathleen, and Mike all went to McDonalds for burgers, fries, happy meals, sodas, and other fast-food delights.

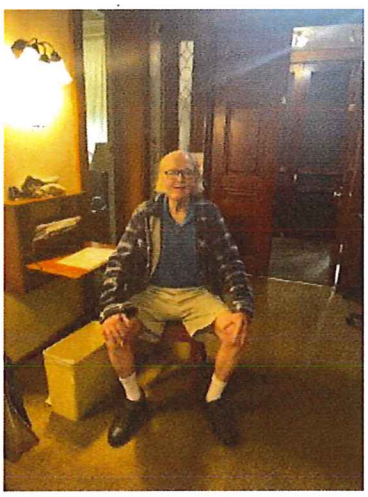
New House favorite, Cup and Cone in White Bear, was revisited. On a warm and sunny day, Gary, Yeng, Cheryl, Susie, Kathleen, and Mike cooled off with either a cup or cone of ice cream.

Marilyn and Lee went to Red Lobster where we were also joined by our TMA Erica, whose birthday we also celebrated. It was fun to spend time with her outside of the house and have her join us on an outing.

We made a return visit to Treasure Island Casino for their Wednesday night buffet special. We had some time to wait for our table, so we found a penny slot and put a dollar in. Yeng, Kathleen, and Marilyn all took turns pressing the button and had the dollar up to $6.03 when our table was ready.

We cashed out and had fun taking trips up to the buffet and finding our favorite foods. After dinner, we took our winnings to another penny slot. We had it up to $10.00 and then slowly lost all but ten cents that we donated to charity. Safe to say, a good time was had by all.

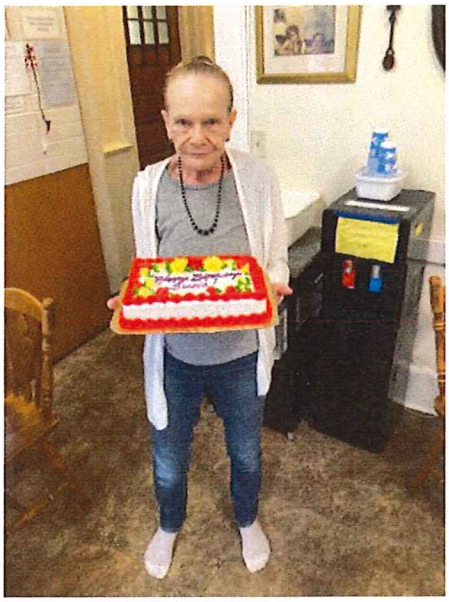
Birthdays



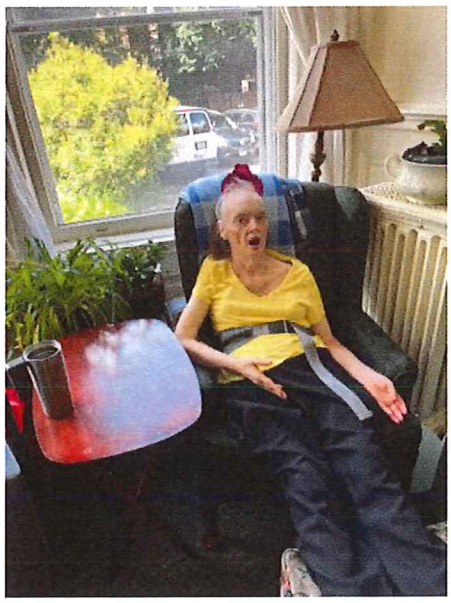
Gary, May 9th

Rick, May 17th

Birthdays



Susan, June 9th



Carla, June 24th

Roving Reporter

In honor of America's 250th anniversary, the Roving Reporter question is:

What does freedom mean to you?

Luanne- Life.

Courtney- The ability to choose what kind of work I want to do.

Steve- I'm just going to have fun.

Joan- Being free.

Rick- Do what you like within the law.

Gary- Being happy and being grateful to God all the time.

Carla- I don't know.

Dan J.- Being able to say what you want.

Marilyn- Using your own terms.

Lee- It means everything.

Cheryl- Getting the job you want.

Susan- Freedom for your children.

Mike- Having what you want.

Kathleen- Being able to practice your faith and the freedom to move around our country without passports, freedom for education, freedom to live in our beautiful country.

Mark- I have no idea.

Michael- The ability to do what you need.

Yeng- Being happy.

Dan Z.- Freedom isn't free.

In Memoriam

We are sad and sorry that our long-time resident, Lucille McCain, passed way on July 3rd. On July 13th, we had a Celebration of Life for Lucy at the house led by Peter and joined by our friends, Stephanie Bowron and Jennie Theisen. We shared stories and sang songs. We will miss her sharp wit, sense of humor, and infectious smile.

Environmental Tip

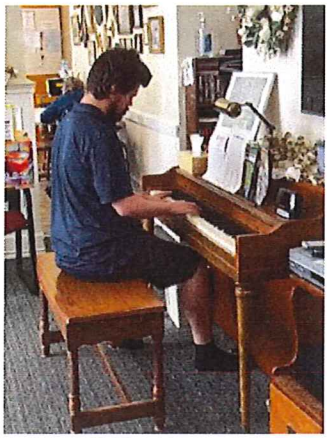
60% of what we throw away is actually recyclable. That is why it is important to check the label on the packaging to make sure it goes in the proper receptacle: recycling or landfill (garbage).
If you don't reuse your plastic bags, many stores like Target have a designated bin for recycling them. Or you can take them to Goodwill stores and they will reuse them for customer purchases.

Inspirational Thought

"We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope."

-Martin Luther King Jr.

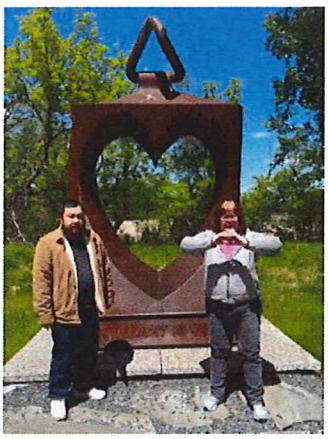
Closing Credits



Our accomplished pianist, Michael, at the keyboard performing an improvised piece.

Artists' Corner

Our Lady of the Flowers



Makes the world go round