

Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads Resident Council

Memorandum For: Goodwin House Board of Trustees
From: Joan Lewis, Chair, GHBC Resident Council
Subject: 2nd Quarter Report, May 2019

Residents Entertain Residents - Four Examples Becoming Involved and Sharing Our Talents Builds Community

Spring Fling

Each year in early spring GHBC residents and staff present an annual talent show. It includes music (vocal and instrumental), dance, comedy, skits and readings. The primary purpose of the Spring Fling is to bring residents and staff closer together by joining forces to present a talent show and to build community. 'Pioneer' resident, Mary Lathram, introduced the show in 1993, and it has become a lasting legacy.

This year we had 15 acts of about five minutes each, enabling performers to showcase their talents in the performing arts. Another purpose of the show is for everyone, performers and audience, to have a fun time. There are two performances, afternoon and evening, and each show has a 'full house' of over 200 attendees. This year there were 59 performers aided by a 21 member resident production staff.

The Jefferson Street String Band

Six years ago a group of amateur musicians associated with GHBC met in the apartment of Barb Jonas to do a jam. Someone said, "We ought to form a country band." And the Jefferson Street String band was born. The band plays Old-Time music which is fiddle and dance music of Appalachia, Bluegrass and popular country songs. Members include a resident, a priority club member as well as friends and relatives of residents. Katherine Cambers plays fiddle, Meg Jonas plays guitar and fiddle, John Potthast plays mandolin and guitar, Roget Bullock plays bass guitar and acoustic guitar, Pete Behr plays mandolin and banjo and Hank Lewis plays guitar and sings.

The band plays at GHBC five or six times a year including our Veterans Day celebration, the kick-off for the Employee Holiday Gift Fun and a number of Country Music for Happy Hour performances. Since GHBC residents like to sing, the band includes sign-along songs in each performance.

Art Gallery Showcases Resident Art

The Fine Arts Department sponsors two resident art exhibits in the Art Gallery each year. Residents may enter as many as two new works each time. The more than 50 works displayed range from ceramics, quilts, and woodworking to water and/or acrylics paintings, pencil drawings and photography. The entries reflect the many and varied classes and opportunities that GHBC residents have to maintain and develop their artistic talents. GHBC hosts an artists' reception which enables them to explain their work to a very appreciative audience.

In addition, a new glass display case inside the Art Center will display ongoing works by resident artists. The first exhibit on July 1 will show products of the knitters for the "Knitting for Children" world service project. Creations from a different art group will be featured each month.

Ben Wilmot, Resident Pianist

Ben Wilmot played a fascinating piano program on May 13th featuring the romantic show tune ballads of Berlin, Kern, Gershwin, Carmichael and others. Ben not only played, he provided commentary highlighting the composers. Residents enjoyed his playing and his anecdotes about the songs and the composers. Ben played the entire program by memory.

Ben is a founder of the GHBC Music Committee. He often plays after dinner in our Rotunda. He also plays for special sing along evenings sponsored by the Music Committee. In the Spring Fling he directed and accompanied three musical acts.