

ELFINDALE

RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Elfindale

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“Dignity
in Life”

Quality Life

Quality Care

Excellent
Teams

Outstanding
Facilities

Quality
Reputation

Stewardship

Excellence in Living Creekside at Elfindale

Resident Spotlight: Charles Gray

Every family has a story. We all came from “somewhere.” There is likely more than one adventure in how our ancestors helped us arrive to where we are today. Some of our stories are well known and well documented—having been recorded and retold for generations. Other stories have chapters missing, and gaps that need to be filled. Regardless of what is known about your family’s story, it not only impacts you, but there is a great chance it impacts others around you.

The family story of community member Charles Gray is one that, without it, Springfield would have a different landscape than what it has today.

Charles is a historian by profession and was contacted in the early 1980s about aiding in the restoration of his family home in Springfield. According to Charles, there is no formal Gray family history, and thus, he had to reconstruct it through census records, property abstracts, local historical accounts, and stories passed on from family members. Charles traced his family back to Virginia during the Revolutionary Period. After moving to Tennessee in the early 1800s, his great-grandparents (Elijah and Annie Gray) moved from Tennessee to Missouri in 1841, following the recommendation of friend John Polk Campbell—the founder of Springfield. They purchased two tracts of land south of Springfield, and built a house for themselves on one; and in 1855 helped their son James Price Gray construct a smaller house on the second tract.

This smaller house would change hands several

times, but would always remain in the Gray (and later, by marriage the aforementioned Campbell) families. This smaller structure (now known as the Gray/Campbell house) would stay on the property for 130 years, and is likely the last surviving home of the early Springfield settlers. Charles recounts visiting the farm as a child with members of his family—

never realizing it was part of historic Springfield—to him, it was just an old family property.

In 1984 the home was moved to Nathanael Greene Park. The house was placed on a foundation made from stones of the original foundation, and over several years restored. Since then, the site has become a model of a 1850s farmstead. Other buildings have been added to the site to help visitors envision life when Springfield was just beginning.

Charles is also part of recent Springfield history. He was born in 1926 and was raised in town. Charles taught history at Central High School in the 1950’s when it was the only high school in Springfield. Even though he left town for 31 years, he returned to be closer to family and to the hills and rivers he grew up loving.

Charles recognizes the importance of passing along history. While on the Illinois State University faculty he



compiled the account of his family and during the 1980's wrote three articles about them in the now defunct Springfield Magazine. Last fall, he took his 13 year-old great-grand daughter to see the family home in Nathanael Greene Park.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "Every book is a quotation; ... and every man is a quotation from all his ancestors." Just as Charles is a representation of Springfield history, and has an account that is part of the history of all Springfieldians—we each have a story. That story could very well impact the lives of those around us, without us even realizing it. Have you shared yours? Write it down. Tell it to your family and friends—you never know what effect it may have.



Creekside 30th Anniversary Fundraiser for Ambassadors for Children

When the team at Creekside started talking about our thirty year anniversary, we wanted something different, not just a party.



We wanted to do something that would make a difference for someone. With the help of three of Creekside Community Members Anne Henry, Cathy Carleton and Deb Stratman, on the fundraising committee, we took a fun enjoyable night, "Jazz Night", and turned it into

a fundraiser for Ambassadors for Children, an outreach service of the Council of Churches of the Ozarks.

In Greene, Christian, and Taney Counties, there are approximately 1,000 children in foster care at any given moment. Ambassadors for Children through donations are able to provide children in foster placement with eye wear, shoes, two visits a year to the "Kids' Closet", a fun and inviting location that allows a child to choose new clothing. For some children, this is the first time they've had clothing that is new and in their exact size.



Our goal was to raise \$3,000, with a donation of \$30 Creekside Community Members enjoyed a meal of lobster tail and steak, listened to a Jazz band and were able to bid on silent auction items that were donated by our vendors and local businesses.



Through the generosity of these vendors, Creekside Community Members, and our team members we were able to raise \$5,000. Our donation was generously matched at the April 22nd, Sweetheart Night event.

"Egg-Ceptional"

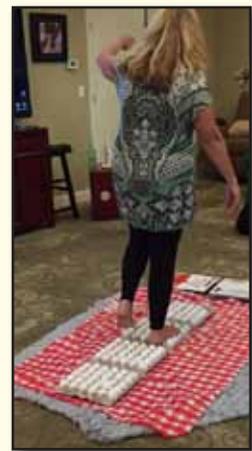
Eggs can be turned into an Eggs-travaganza with just a little imagination and a group of people who want to have fun!!!

Creekside Community Members are always ready for an adventure that is out of the ordinary, and that is "egg-actly" what they got one morning in April. It started with a sampling of green eggs and ham of which everyone enjoyed.



Next, came a science experiment to get a hard-boiled egg to be sucked into a bottle with a tiny opening. Matches, paper and fire were involved which made the task extra exciting. This experiment proved that hot air expands and as it cools then it creates a lower pressure inside the bottle than outside the bottle. Presto.... in goes the egg!

Following the experiment, the Members were challenged to use deduction and their sense of hearing to determine what was hidden inside a dozen plastic eggs. One person was 100% correct, however the majority of the group's guesses were incorrect. Everyone got a good laugh at their poor results!



The grand finale' was our Life Enrichment Coordinator, DJ, walked across 16 dozen raw eggs....and was SUCCESSFUL!!!!!!!!!!!!!! The event was a "smash," but not the eggs!



The "Date" Lady

This was an event that needing advertising prior to the day of the event! It was important to let everyone know that our guest speaker was not from a "dating" service for seniors! It was actually all about "dates" the fruit. Once that was clarified, and the word "samples" was mentioned, there was a full house when the "Date" Lady arrived at Creekside. Colleen Sundlie, is the owner of the date company that has grown rapidly since it opened its doors back in 2012. Her husband was offered a job teaching at the United Arab



Emirates University in Al Ain, UAE. Once they were settled in there, they began forming friendships with the local people. Hospitality from locals always included dates and a large selection of related items such as sparkling date drinks, and dates stuffed with exotic fruits and nuts. At one local home she was offered a date product that would someday change her and her husband's life significantly. It was pure date syrup, luxurious honey-like nectar derived from the fruit of the date palm. It soon became a staple in Colleen's home. Once they left the UAE she knew she could not live without date syrup in their lives, they were hooked. She became the "Date Lady" and started the business here in Springfield.

Colleen's and her husband's company delights in offering people everywhere luxurious date products like they've never tasted before. In addition to a rare organic date variety and pure date syrup, Date Lady also offers a caramel sauce, chocolate spread and date balsamic, all sweetened naturally and exclusively with dates. These products are offered in over 700 specialty stores in the U.S. as well as Canada, Chili, Ireland, Taiwan and New Zealand.

The Community Members at Creekside were able to sample all her products along with raw dates and special date bread that was offered for the first time this past Christmas. The "sample table" was a very busy spot in the Clubhouse and the reviews of her date products were wonderful! They decided dates are now something to look forward to, and include in their diets along with date syrup which is a healthy alternative to sugar.



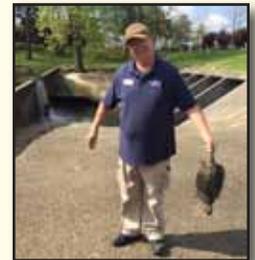
Mothers Share Wisdom at Mother's Day Tea

Every year the Lodge at Creekside hosts a Mother's Day Tea. This year the tea was held in the Dining Room. As the women were eating scones and drinking tea, they were asked to share advice either given by their mothers, or wisdom they gave their own children. Some advice spoken was: "Always tell the truth," and "Don't do anything you would be ashamed for me to find out" was shared. The common theme seemed to be the importance of treating others with kindness. We are thankful for the mothers at Creekside, and for the kind lives they have lived.



Good Turtle...Bad Turtle

Every year a business located behind Creekside has turtle races as a fundraiser. After the races are over they release the turtle onto our 62 acres to go back to the living a "normal" turtle life. When this happens, the contest for Creekside Community Members who walk the campus for exercise begins! The first person to find a turtle with a number on its back and turn it in to DJ, our Life Enrichment Coordinator, wins a \$25 gift card! This year only minutes after it was announced, two turtles were found! Can you guess which one was the winner?



Better than the Easter Bunny

Their temperament is nothing like others rabbits. They are natural little cuddle bunnies. They are not hyper and love to be held. Anna compares the English Angoras to loving lap dogs.



They are easily litter-box trained and make great companions and indoor pets. Her rabbits were passed around for the Community Members to hold for over an hour and the rabbits were calm and loving the entire time. It was difficult to pass them around ONLY because no one wanted to give them up. They have a very calming effect on anyone who holds them! These rabbits were popular pets with French royalty back in the

mid-18th century and quickly spread to other parts of Europe. It is easy to see why they were so popular and now they are at Creekside as well.

Along with the Angora rabbits, Anna brought along her items to do her historical demonstration for us. She travels the country to heirloom craft festivals to share the rich history behind these rabbits and their wool. Her goal with doing the demonstration is to give people the chance to see, from start to finish, how the rabbit's fiber, wool production and spinning



has been done for the past 300 plus years. She uses her grandmother's traditional Ashford spinning wheel that her grandfather originally purchased from a Sears and Roebuck catalog. She sits with a bunny on her lap, spinning right off of the bunny, and shows how shearing, plucking, brushing and wool harvesting is done. She brought along wool for everyone to touch as well as finished garments and knitted items that she has made from her own rabbits. This is an amazing old-time art passed down from generation to generation! We are so glad that Anna came and shared with us.....twice. That's right, once was not enough!



LET US KNOW

Please call 417-831-3828 to let us know what sort of information you would like to see in future issues! If you would like to have the Elfintales emailed to you please call Denice at 234-4311. For those of you who would like you can now find the newsletter, activities calendar and a link to "IN THE LOOP" on our website www.elfindalretirement.com

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