

BP BULLETIN



Welcome to our New Residents

Wendy Dageford - 10, #116
Gladys Mikkola - 10, #311
Stephanie Laing - 20, #204
Chuck and Linda
Lindskoog - 20, #302

2015-2016 Birch Pond Association Board

Jerry Cowan
President
cowan215@comcast.net
612-306-5663

Ted Dageford
Vice President
tnmdageford@q.com
651-633-9873
612-396-8067 (cell)

Bonnie Conroy
Secretary
boncon8@comcast.net
651-633-6651
651-276-2898 (cell)

Marlene Dowson
Treasurer
Mardaledowson
@comcast.net
651-797-2607

Peggy Jacobson
Member-at-Large
Peggyjake10@gmail.com
612-781-2233

Stacy Sheridan
Property Manager
New Concepts
stacy@ncmgi.com
Direct: 952-224-2694
Main Office: 952-922-2500

Jackie Cherne
Assistant Property Manager
New Concepts
jackie@ncmgi.com
Direct: 952-224-2696
Main Office: 952-922-2500

A hands-on heart for war-torn Israel

NOTE: I asked Carolyn Laroche (Building 20) to write an article about her volunteer activities in Israel. She made her first trip in 2006, one-and-half years after her husband, Gerry's, death. She has returned every year since. Carolyn is 79 years old. – Janell Wojtowicz, Editor

2006 – During my first six weeks, 30 of us from around the world were bused every day to different towns. We sang and played Israeli and religious songs in town squares, handed out reading material, answered questions and chatted with the folks.

The following week, a friend from Peru and I stayed in the Old City. One afternoon as I waited for the hotel clerk to buzz me in, two Arab men grabbed my arm as I started to open the door. At that moment, the clerk ran down the stairs and the men ran away. WHEW!

The last three weeks that year I lived and worked in Jerusalem with HofM, an organization that helps soldiers and citizens wounded during the 2004-05 war. Much time was spent visiting them in hospitals and homes. I have been with HofM ever since.

2007 – Seven of us ages 20-70 lived on the third floor of a large apartment building—with no elevator!—outside of Jerusalem. One afternoon at the HofM



office, we heard shouts from the hallway and outside. The radio just announced that the Arab bus driver for a **large Yeshiva (boys' school) had entered a classroom and started shooting.** An IDF soldier living next door heard the shooting, grabbed his gun, saw the man's shadow, ran next door and shot and killed the driver. Over 35 boys were wounded, seven killed, ages 13-18. The HofM director and I were allowed to visit the seven families – what heroes!! I was never the same after that.

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Grab your lawn chair or blanket, and enjoy nature and the performing arts at Silverwood Park, right across the street.

IN CONCERT
6:30-8 p.m. @ Silverwood Amphitheater
July 13 – Dan Israel Band
July 20 – Brian Laidlaw & the Family Trade

July 24 – The Ericksons
July 27 – Chastity Brown
Aug. 3 – The High 48s
Aug. 10 – Al Church (solo)
Aug. 17 – Jillian Rae
Aug. 21 – The Cactus Blossoms
Sept. 17 – J.E. Sunde

ART
@ Silverwood Park Gallery
July 22, 7-8 p.m.
Hybrid Performance Experiments –
Rachel Jendrzewski

Aug. 11, 6-8 p.m.
Silverwood Student Show – Gallery Reception (Exhibition runs Aug. 11-31)

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Carolyn Laroche: Hands-on heart for Israel

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2008-2016 – S'derot, a southern war-front city located a kilometer from Gaza, was where over 400,000 rockets had landed from radical terrorist groups in the past several years. The city is replete with poverty and traumatized children and adults, thus HofM decided to relocate to the most impoverished and needy city in Israel (which was no longer Jerusalem). HofM rented a house overgrown with weeds and garbage. Greeted with a rocket alert as we drove into S'derot loaded with boxes, suitcases, etc., we rushed into a doorway where people huddled together waiting for the rocket to fall. It never did. With the "all clear" signal, we went to the "new" office.

At midnight, exhausted, Beth (a volunteer) and I found a blanket and space on the floor. We had just fallen asleep when a tail and tiny feet ran down my face. I screamed, turned on the light and saw a cute mouse sitting across the hall looking at me. We chased it out and slept on a table.

Four hours later Beth screamed. The whole place smelled of gas. We pushed open the windows and the front door. The culprit? No one accepted responsibility, but we found that the lever on the gas stove was pushed on, but not pushed off. It wasn't me!

The next day while sorting give-away clothes, a young teen girl walked in and started to help. I knew no Hebrew; she knew no English or French. After a while we became tired of sorting and got silly. We started chasing each other around the large table. Later her mom called her home to eat and she left.

Her father rushed over the next day "What did you do to my daughter? Since two years of rockets, my daughter has not smiled, laughed, sang or talked. She came home yesterday doing all of the above. This is a miracle!"

P.S. This year she graduated from high school with honors.

My favorite soldier, Joseph, a Christian Arab, was wounded in 2006. I spent much time with him in the hospital and at home; he ultimately succumbed to complications. His mom requested

that I sit beside her at the funeral. Many tears!

One day, a rocket landed by a bus stop three doors away from HofM. No one was injured, but I found a friend hiding and crying in the bus shelter and took her home. Two years previously, a rocket landed in her yard while she was showering. The force of it threw her from the bathroom down the stairs. She was still traumatized – now this!

HofM uses dozens of clothes racks for hundreds of donated clothes available at no charge to poor people. We are one block from the open market and some days as many as 100 people stop by. Thanks to a company in Australia, once a month we have "diaper parties," where diapers for infants to adults are given away. What a life-saver these are to so many! We also give dry food items to those in need once a week.

On school days we prepare and deliver 300 sandwiches for elementary children too poor to afford breakfast, let alone lunch. We prepare war survival boxes which will keep a family of five alive for two weeks. They include dry food, utensils, hygiene items, games and books, which can be kept in the bomb shelters. We distribute them in S'derot, and to poor families, synagogues, nursing homes, throughout the country.

Monthly we visit families that are sent money through our adoption program, to monitor their progress. We do weekly home visits to Holocaust survivors, and hospital visits to children, where we give hugs and hand out toys and treats. Twin lambs used for children's therapy were in my care. My shorthand, fast keyboard skills and editing come in handy for office work.

I must mention my three-month stay in a treehouse. Hair and face were washed in cold water on the front porch. Bathing was done from a small bucket inside. The toilet was three steps from a tiny back porch door that faced a park. Clothes were washed by hand and hung on a rope for all to see.

Health allowing, I plan to continue my trips.



The huge HofM front area was covered with pebbles that had to be removed in preparation to pour concrete. It took three of us four days to pitch the pebbles into wheelbarrows and then empty them into one-ton bags. Whew!!!!

Silverwood On Stage

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SILVER SCREEN

8:30-10 p.m.

July 20 – The Last Waltz

Aug. 24 – TBD

In partnership with the Film Society of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

PERFORMANCE/PUPPETRY

July 10, 1-3 p.m.

Puppet Adventures with Ned the Naturalist

July 16, 10-11 a.m.; 12-1 p.m.

Things with Wings-Owls

July 23, 10-11 a.m. and 12-1 p.m.

Things with Wings-Swallows

July 23, 7-8 p.m.

Summer Field Work - Performance through the Park

July 29, 6:30-7:15 p.m.

The Way of the Monarch

July 30, 10-11 a.m.

Things with Wings - Loons

More info at <http://www.silverwoodonstage.org>

The colors, aromas and sounds of Birch Pond

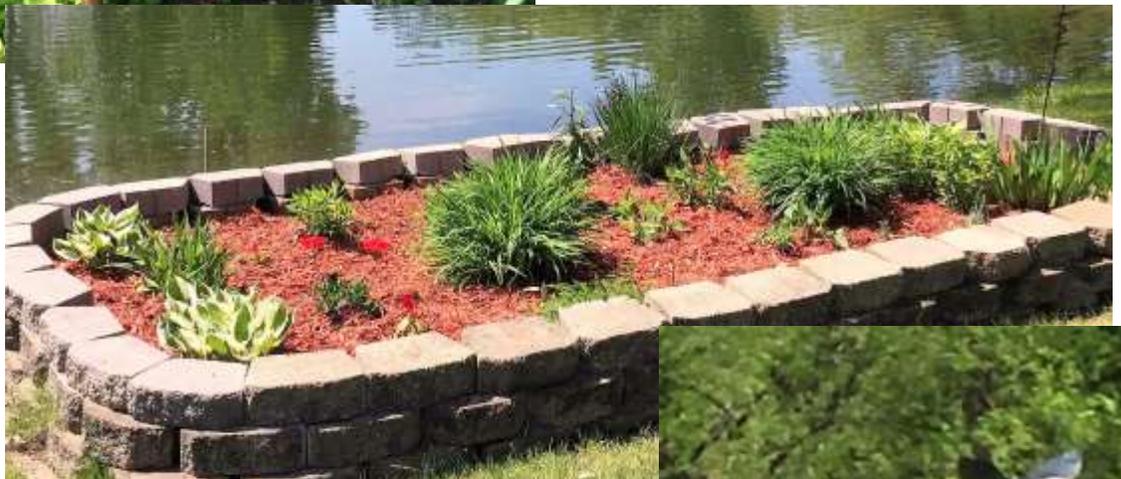


↑ Herb garden at Building 20

← The flamingos have landed in Building 20's backyard.

→ Landscape art overlooking the north side of Birch Pond

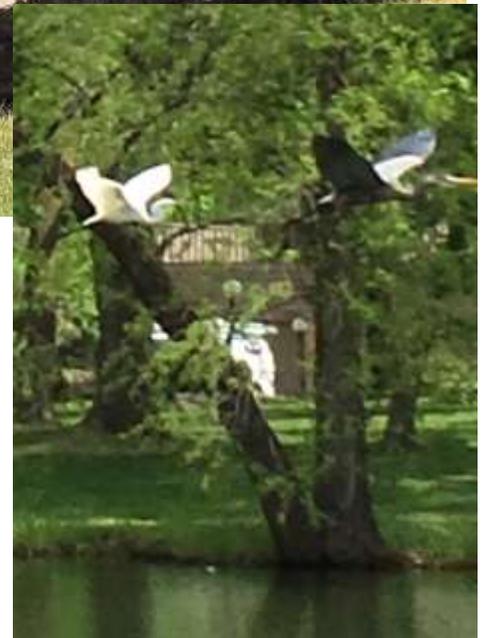
Many thanks to gardeners Marge Dageford and Wendy Dageford (10) and Kathy Morales and Mary Ann Weiner (20).



← Green-scape at Building 10

→ A Snowy Egret and Great Blue Heron take flight from Birch Pond.

Photo by Merle DeNuccio, Building 20



Kudos to Lester Larson (10), Arvid Baumgartner (10) and Jerry Portlance (20) for the tree-trimming this spring.

Birch Pond's Veryle Henriksen

New Brighton Navy veteran is a book author, avid bridge player

Reprinted with permission from the Minnesota Sun Focus, Published May 24, 2016. Sun staff photos by Kassie Petermann.

By Sue Webber
Contributing Writer

Armed with a degree in history and religion, Veryle Henriksen intended to be a coach when he graduated from St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, in 1950.

"But the love bug bit me pretty badly," said Henriksen, a native of Iowa who has lived in New Brighton for 24 years. He and his wife, Peggy, were married in 1950.

Henriksen joined the Naval Reserve in 1950, and spent one summer in Newport, R.I., and another summer in Treasure Island, San Francisco. He still recalls the old World War II Navy chief whose first order was this:

"Youse guys who swim stand over here; youse guys who don't swim stand over there. When I get through witcha, everyone swims."

At the end of six weeks, the chief told Henriksen he was the first failure. **"I still can't swim to this day."**



Veryle Henriksen plays duplicate bridge every week at the New Brighton Community Center.

He'd always thought he had a strong stomach, but Henriksen said he didn't escape seasickness. **"I was seasick even in the harbor,"** he quipped.

From 1953-55, Henriksen was on active duty as a line officer in the Navy.

"I got in on the prisoner exchange in Korea," Henriksen said. **"I was present when the first prisoners were flown in from North Korea. They were so skinny they could have stood sideways in the rain and not gotten wet. It was a bright, clear afternoon. It was an awesome sight."**

After active duty, Henriksen's attempt to return to the family farm in Clear Lake, Iowa, was scuttled when an accident with a manure loader broke his jaw in two places and made him reconsider his plans to be a farmer.

"I wondered why I was alive then; I should have been dead," Henriksen said. **"I figured God had something in store for me. I felt called to the ministry."**

After attending Luther Seminary in St. Paul and being ordained, he found



Veryle Henriksen, Building 20

himself back in the Navy, this time as a chaplain.

He served as a chaplain on both active and inactive duty, from 1959-1980, based out of Florida and then Maryland. Henriksen then served in the Marines in North Carolina, followed by two years of service as the naval base chaplain in Iceland, and then spent three years in Rhode Island.

He recalls that a destroyer he was on just missed being chosen to pick up astronaut John Glenn, who was on a space mission.

That wasn't his last near-brush with Glenn, however. Henriksen recalls the July 4, 1984, parade in Clear Lake, Iowa, when then-U.S. Sen. John Glenn, the former astronaut and retired U.S. Marine Corps pilot, was part of the parade. **"He was about 50 yards away from me on the back of a convertible when the parade stopped,"** Henriksen said. **"It was all quiet and I shouted out, 'USS Noa.' I gave him the high sign, and he waved at me."**

Henriksen has lasting memories of Clear Lake, Iowa, where, he recalls, **Buddy Holly's plane went down a mile-and-a-half from where he was born.**

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Veryle Henriksen

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“My dad and I were born in the same room in the same house,” Henriksen said. “He was an absolutely remarkable man. He was a farmer with an eighth-grade education, but he served on the school board and the county board of education and was a director of the bank. My mom only had a ninth-grade education, but she was smarter than a lot of people who have doctorate degrees.”

Henriksen and his wife raised a family of three daughters and a son. They also have 10 grandchildren (three of whom are triplet boys) and eight great-grandchildren.

The Henriksens spent seven years serving at a church in Hoffman, Minnesota, followed by 15 years of ministry in the regional treatment center for chemical dependency and mental health patients at the State Hospital in Fergus Falls. Henriksen then served as the visitation pastor at Abiding Savior Lutheran Church in Mounds View and 11 years at First Lutheran Church in Columbia Heights, before his last ministry, at Christ the King Church in New Brighton from 2011-14.

He claims he tried retiring five times and “failed miserably. I finally made it on the sixth try,” said Henriksen, who retired in 2014, after 55 years of church service.

An avid bridge player for 46 years, Henriksen has been playing duplicate bridge each Wednesday and Thursday with senior citizens at the New Brighton Community Center.

He also is writing a book about his life. Henriksen is a life member of the VFW in New Brighton.

Condo Life Odds and Ends

Roof Access

No standing water is on the roofs. Any contractor that is on the roof will be responsible for any damage they caused. Owners are not allowed on the roof for liability reasons; only approved contractors.

For Sale/Open House Signage

1. No For Sale signs shall be placed on exterior or interior of buildings or on common property areas.
2. One small standard Open House sign will be permitted in front of each building entrance only during hours of open house in that building
3. A small sign in the building entrance listing the unit for sale and the telephone number to call shall be permitted in the designated space during open house hours



Who to call when ...

Has the garage door failed to close? Elevator “hung up?” Housekeeping needed in the Commons? Call Jackie Cherne, Assistant Property Manager, New Concepts: direct line- 952-224-2696; main office- 952-922-2500, jackie@ncmgi.com. She will call in a vendor as needed.

For quick fixes, such as burned out light bulbs in hallways::

Building 10 – Ted Dageford; alternate Lynn Gunderson
Building 20 – Ray Kocon; alternate Kathy Morales

Wheelchair Usage



On occasion, Birch Pond has wheelchairs available for temporary use in the buildings. Please check them out (seats, brakes, etc.) to be sure they are in good working condition before using. Birch Pond Condominiums are not responsible for any personal injuries or damage to a home owner’s unit.

Got News?

Send news, photo ops and suggestions to: Janell Wojtowicz, Building 20, Apt. 315, 651-528-7425 or janellwoj@comcast.net. I’m available to help craft stories or just brainstorm. To readers in Building 10, I don’t want to overlook you! Let me know if you have news or ideas to share.



Deadline for the spring edition is Sept 1. For those who did not receive this by email, but would like to, send me your email address.



Everything you wanted to know about trash & recycling ...

Keep this as a guide as you recycle in your household. For more information call Ramsey County at 651-633-3279 (EASY). The line is answered 24/7. A comprehensive resource guide is located online at: <https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/recycling-waste>

Garbage

No loose garbage down the chutes or in the dumpster. Plastic bags must be closed tightly; double bag if necessary; a paper bag is not appropriate. Do not throw loose bones, vegetables, meat cartons and other loose garbage.

Single Sort Recycling — YES

- Newspaper and newspaper inserts
- Magazines and catalogues
- Cardboard - All cardboard boxes must be crushed flat or cut into smaller pieces
- All junk mail and envelopes
- Office and school paper (all colors)
- Phone books
- Cereal and cracker-type boxes
- Brown paper sacks/bags
- Aluminum, steel and tin cans
- Glass bottles and jars
- Plastics: #1-7 - bottles, cups, food containers, tubs, bowls
- Yogurt cups and butter/whip cream tubs
- Plastic milk jugs, paper milk cartons
- Plastic bags from retailers
- Juice boxes, other paper cartons

Ramsey County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Site

Bay West, Inc.
5 Empire Drive
Saint Paul

April-November Schedule
Tuesday-Friday: 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sunday-Monday: Closed



Single Sort Recycling — NO

- Garbage
- Food waste
- Food tainted items: paper plates, paper towels, paper napkins
- Pizza boxes
- Egg cartons
- Wax-coated cartons
- Carpet padding
- Aluminum foil
- Styrofoam - cups, plates, packaging
- Aerosol cans, propane tanks, helium tanks
- PVC piping
- Yard waste

P.S.—Please do not use the hobby room in the garage for storage.

How to dispose of:

Fluorescent bulbs: Ramsey County household hazardous waste collection site.

Weed, bug, rodent killers: Ramsey County household hazardous waste collection site.

Fertilizer without weed killer, fungicide, insect killer, etc.: Garbage.

Electronics (TV, computers, stereos, CDs, DVDs VCRs): Community clean-up event or established recycler.

Tires: Tire store or garbage transfer station (illegal in trash).

Paint: Small amounts of latex can be safely dried out and put in trash. Cans completely empty are recyclable. Take liquid paint to Ramsey County house-

hold hazardous waste collection site.

Motor oil, oil filters, anti-freeze: Take to quick oil change center (most accept up to five gallons of oil and/or five used oil filters free).

Power steering, transmission, brake fluids and anti-freeze: Ramsey County household hazardous waste collection site.

Car batteries: Take to auto service center. By law, businesses that sell car lead acid batteries must accept up to five used batteries free of charge; store purchase not necessary.

Household batteries (alkaline, carbon/zinc, heavy-duty): They are not considered hazardous and can be disposed in the garbage.

Photo/button batteries (hearing aids, watches, other small devices - Mercuric Oxide): Ramsey County household hazardous waste collection site.

Rechargeable (nickel cadmium, nickel-metal hydride, sealed lead acid, lithium-ion): Recycle.

Product containers such as aerosol or pesticide when completely empty: Garbage.

Appliances (refrigerator, freezers, stoves, microwaves, AC, water heaters, garbage disposals, dehumidifiers): By law, must be recycled; fee for drop-off or pickup. Recycling options will vary; search individual appliance for more information. Or contact Ramsey County.

Updated July 1, 2016

