



A monthly newsletter dedicated to our residents and family members.

July 2018

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Ms. Mulberry Pageant contestants embrace 'a wonderful world'

The joy for life, vibrancy and a sense of humor characterized the contestants in the Ms. Senior Mulberry Gardens Pageant 2018 held June 8. The women, whose ages ranged from 75 to 97 years old, all had advice for staying young. "Don't stay home - keep active. Don't act like an old lady," said Helen Marshall, a Mulberry Gardens resident and contestant.

This was the ninth year of the pageant which was created nine years ago to showcase the vitality of the residents and members of the adult day centers, including Marian Heights in New Britain.

The 2018 theme was "What a Wonderful World," which many of the women had experienced firsthand. They were world travelers, held master's degrees, were active in the arts, music and sports, and one even rode a camel.

For the second time, the pageant was emceed by Scot Haney, WFSB-3 meteorologist and co-host of Better Connecticut. His questions kept contestants and the audience laughing. When Marion Lewoc, a member of the Mulberry Gardens Adult Day Center, said her favorite song was "Ava Maria," Haney broke out in song. Lewoc, a professional vocalist, told him that the next time he should start in a lower key.

Judges Kathy Faber, of Kathy Faber Designs, and Kimberly Beaudoin, Mrs. USA Universal 2016 were returning judges as Renee DiNino, iHeartMedia personality, joined the panel for the first time this year. "This pageant is one of my favorite events I've ever had the honor to be a part of as one of the judges. They were all



Mulberry Garden resident Christine DeCarlo, center, receives congratulations on being chosen as the 2018 Ms. Senior Mulberry Gardens Pageant winner from judge Renee DiNino, left, and Scot Haney, emcee, right.

winners in my book," DiNino said. "I must say the love and kindness expressed by the staff at Mulberry Gardens almost made my heart burst with joy."

After the judges' discussion, Christine DeCarlo, Mulberry Gardens resident, was presented with the winner's tiara and sash, which was draped across her black and silver shimmering gown. Judges, friends and staff gathered around her as she was handed a bouquet of pink roses.

Other honors were: Margaret Blake – first runner -up; Lorraine Ziel – second runner-up; Mary Lou Dolce – Best Hair; Marie Fleisher – Best Dressed; Marcia Jackie – Most Sophisticated; Loretta

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Happy Fourth of July to residents

July Celebrations

Birthdays

Residents

Robert B. July 1
Ruth H. July 4
Dolores H. July 10
Gerry E. July 10
Jeanette D. July 11
Margaret B. July 16
Mary B. July 21
Phyllis M. July 23
Barbara N. July 30

Adult Day Center

Eunice C. July 13
Pat H. July 13

Marian Heights

Mary R. July 11
Mary Ann T. July 24

Happy Anniversary

Congratulations to Buzz and Marge McKennerney who were married on July 23, 1972!

July Events

July 5

6 p.m. Entertainment with Larry Batter

July 10

1:30 p.m. Music with Al Leone

July 18

1:30 p.m. Entertainment with Ashley Cruz

July 19

1:30 p.m. Music Therapy with Maggie

July 24

6 p.m. Entertainment with Les Julian

Mulberry Gardens employees receive awards

Two Mulberry Gardens staffers were among 13 Hartford HealthCare Senior Services employees who were honored at the Legacy Awards Celebration held in May at Hawk's Landing Country Club.

Honorees received either the Trish

Walden Legacy Award - Excellence in Resident-Centered Care or the Clarence J. Silvia Legacy Award - Leadership Behaviors in Action.

Mulberry Gardens honorees were Anisah Gaffar, CNA, (Trish Walden Legacy Award) and Lorraine Belas, waitstaff (Clarence J. Silvia Award).

The Excellence in Resident-Centered Care Legacy Award, named after Trish Walden, former vice president of Hartford HealthCare Senior Services, recognizes HHCSS employees who embody the mission of resident-centered care. Nominees do not need to be direct caregivers, but they should know what is important to residents to see that they feel fulfilled physically, spiritually and emotionally.

The Leadership Behaviors in Action Award, named in honor of Clarence J. Silvia, former president of The Hospital of Central Connecticut, recognizes HHCSS employees with a strong work ethic and a belief in this mission of serving seniors. In their interactions, they exhibit Hartford HealthCare's 10 leadership behaviors.

Others receiving the Trish Walden Legacy Award were: Kate Rabinoff, resident service coordinator, Arbor Rose; Awa Jeng, resident care attendant, Cedar Mountain Commons; Pam Brown, social worker, Jefferson House; Lori Lyons, physical therapist, Jerome Home; Carol Volpe, activities director, The Orchards at Southington; and Cathy Chattelle, physical therapist assistant, Southington Care Center.

Individuals who also received the Clarence J. See **Legacy** on page 3



Photo by Jeff Evans

From left are, Peter Fescio, Lorraine Belas, Anisah Gaffar, Ingrid Kausyla and Katie Mauriello.

Be sure to "like" us on Facebook to keep

ts, members, families and staff!

Pageant from page 1

LaFreniere – Nicest Eyes; Marion Lewoc – Most Charming; Helen Marshall – Best Sense of Humor; Phyllis McCabe – Most Elegant; Barbara Munzu – Most Graceful; Christine Stylinski – Nicest Smile; and Mary Ann Terzak – Miss Congeniality.

Paula DePinto, director of finance for Hartford HealthCare Senior Services and head of the pageant committee, said the women were models of graceful aging, poise and confidence. She also thanked the contestant sponsors and event sponsors including Savers, which donated the pageant dresses, and Nyren’s for the flowers. Sponsors included Kevin’s Building & Remodeling, Giordano Cabinets, Harvest Medical, Perfect Temp and Richard Ziel.

Supporters included Janet Headley, Lynda Kosky, Theresa Mueller, Valley Flooring and Worldwide Wines.

“The secret to staying young? Enjoy every day,” said Ziel.



Photos by Rusty Kimball

Above: Scot Haney, emcee, chats with the contestants and crowd.

Below: Gino Munzu escorts his wife, Barbara, under the entrance arch.



Left: Ceil Harris, 2017 Ms. Mulberry Gardens, blows kisses to the crowd as she enters with Richard Lewis, long-time volunteer.

Legacy continued from page 2

Silvia Legacy Award were: Lou Roca, director of dining services, Cedar Mountain Commons; Janele McAdams, nurse educator, Jefferson House; Norm Aldrich, building services director, Jerome Home; Andrea Hallock, environmental services aide, The Orchards at Southington; and

Richard Poitras, cook, Southington Care Center.

“Congratulations to all our award winners - you all do remarkable work every day. Never forget why you do this: to provide quality care for our seniors and frail elders,” said Sharon Robinson RN, BSN, MHA, regional director of Skilled Nursing Facilities Operations, HHCSS.

up with our latest photos and activities!

Mulberry Gardens of Southington

Connect to healthier.™

Mulberry Gardens of Southington
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Respite care available during caregivers support group

Living with Alzheimer's disease or a related memory disorder can be challenging for families and caregivers. Mulberry Gardens offers a free support group for families and caregivers on the second Tuesday of every month (except December) from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Facilitators provide suggestions, community support and a safe environment to listen or share thoughts and feelings. Jenn Doty, BSW, Mulberry Gardens social worker, leads the group.

Upcoming sessions will be Tuesdays, July 10 and Aug. 14.

Respite care for loved ones in our Adult Day Center is available with prior notice. To register or arrange care, call Marie Terzak, retirement counselor, at 860.276.1020.

Mulberry Gardens of Southington

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Presenting 'Ms. Nicest Eyes'



Resident Loretta LaFreniere, center, listens carefully as emcee Scot Haney asks her about her travel experiences. Donna Johnson, activities director, is on the right. More pageant coverage on pages 1 and 3.