



A monthly newsletter dedicated to our residents and family members.

July 2019

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Mulberry Gardens Pageant showcases women's lives and legacies

Words of wisdom, gleaned from years of life experiences, were freely shared and taken to heart at the Ms. Senior Mulberry Gardens Pageant 2019 held June 14 at the independent and assisted living community. "Look on the bright side," "Do whatever you can possibly do," "Stay active and exercise," "Live in the present" and "Have gratitude" were among the snippets of advice the 13 contestants shared with the crowd.

Scot Haney, WFSB-TV personality and third-time pageant emcee, listened carefully and humored the tips including using petroleum jelly to keep his skin looking youthful. His questions brought out stories of accomplishments such as playing the organ at Radio City Music Hall, helping to establish the Meriden Daffodil Festival, and writing a 666-page family history. Haney, a crowd favorite, brought out the best in each contestant, even crooning "Wouldn't It Be Lovely" with Carole M., who at one time headlined a production of "My Fair Lady."



Pageant photos by Rusty Kimball

Gathering around Carole Milano, Ms. Senior Mulberry Gardens 2019, are, back row from left, judge Kimberly Beaudoin, emcee Scot Haney, and judges Renee DiNino and Kathy Faber.

"Wouldn't It Be Lovely" with Carole M., who at one time headlined a production of "My Fair Lady."

"Fly Me to the Moon" marked the 10th year of the pageant which was established in 2010 to celebrate the vitality of the residents and members of the two Mulberry Gardens adult day centers.

When the pageantry and interviewing concluded, Carole, a participant in the Southington Adult Day Center program, was crowned with the winner's tiara and draped with the 2019 satin sash. She is a well-known woman in town as the founder of the Southington Arts Council and yoga teacher for 36 years. Even after her husband came up to congratulate her, See **Pageant** on page 2



Contestants chat during a photo opportunity.

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she expressed amazement that she was the winner. "I can't believe this," she said, as she clasped her bouquet of white roses.

Other contestants and their titles were: Candide S. (First Runner-Up); Trudy M. (Second Runner-Up); Carmen C. (Most Charming); Lucille C. (Most Graceful); Ola C. (Nicest Hair); Arlene H. (Most Elegant); Patricia L. (Best Sense of Humor); Kathryn O. (Most Sophisticated); Natalie P. (Ms. Congeniality), Theresa P. (Nicest Eyes); Eileen P. (Nicest Smile); and Rita V. (Best Dressed).

This was the 10th anniversary of judging for Kathy Faber, of Kathy Faber Designs. Returning judges also included Kimberly Beaudoin, Mrs. USA Universal 2016, and Renee DiNino, iHeartMedia personality. Mara DeLuco, Ms. Junior Teen Plantsville and granddaughter of a Mulberry Gardens resident, greeted guests at the door.

Sponsors included: Silver – Connecticut Pharmacy; Bronze – Kevin's Building & Remodeling, Donald Spilka and Valley Flooring.

"This is the best event of the year," Haney said, following the pageant. "These women are so worthy of acknowledgement. It's nice to see they are still going strong."



Above: Executive Director Jacquelyn Gaulin thanks sponsors and supporters.



Above: Theresa P. receives "Nicest Eyes."



Above: Lucille C. receives "Most Graceful."



Above: Yolande Prioleau, resident aide, sings "You Are So Beautiful to Me" during the pageant.



Above: Rita V., left, models her "Best Dressed" sash seated next to Peggy B., first runner-up in 2018.

Snapshots of life at Mulberry Gardens

Activities abound inside and out for Mulberry Gardens residents and members of the Adult Day Centers.

Among the festivities was a 102nd birthday party for Rita C. Happy birthday, Rita!

Below: Activities Director Donna Johnson serves Rita C. her birthday cake.



Above: Residents and CNAs soak up the sunshine share a summer chat on one of the patios.



Above: Members of the Adult Day Center enjoy the Mother's Day tea.

July Birthdays

Residents

Robert B. July 1
Ruth H. July 4
Dolores H. July 10
Geraldine E. July 10
Anna N. July 13
Rita V. July 14
Margaret B. July 16
Frances F. July 17

Norman L. July 18
Phyllis M. July 23
Nellie S. July 24
Barbara N. July 30

Adult Day Center

Marilee M. July 21
Lorraine S. July 26



Mulberry Gardens residents gather during an excursion to Gouveia Vineyards.



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Mulberry Gardens of Southington



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July Events

July 2

6 p.m. Entertainment
with Larry Batter



July 4

1:30 p.m. Fourth of July
Entertainment with Don Zanier

July 5

1:30 p.m. Caribbean Show with
Jose Paulo

July 10

10:30 a.m. Slide Show
Presentation on a, "National Park
Adventure" with Roger Hart

July 19

1:30 p.m. Entertainment with
Tony Castle

July 23

1:30 p.m. Music with Les Julian

July 25

1:30 p.m. Music therapy with
Maggie

Volunteers welcome!

Mulberry Gardens is looking for volunteers who would like to work with our residents and members of the Adult Day Center. Activities may include assistance with recreation, events, arts and crafts, evening bingo and more. Questions? Call Donna Johnson, activities director, at 860.276.1020.

Respite care available at 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 (July 9) of every month, 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, social worker, leads the group. 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.