

# The Meadian



*An e-newsletter published periodically for families, friends and residents of St. Anne's Mead*

MAY 6, 2014

## **Words of Love**

### **Remembering Mom on Mother's Day**

Mothers are special. That's why we honor them every May. For many sons and daughters who too, are aging, the meaning of the word "mother" is ever more important as events in life and holidays like Mother's Day give us pause to consider our maternal relationships.

"All my life I've known my mom is special. I don't remember ever not knowing this," says Mame Jackson, daughter of St. Anne's Mead resident, Virginia Jackson.

"My earliest memories of Mom and Dad are of just absolutely loving being with them and just loving being their kid. When I was three, we were in New York City on V-E Day, when World War II ended. Happy people filled the streets and the sky was nothing but ticker tape and confetti. To them, during the war years, it must have seemed that the whole world was coming apart, but I had always felt absolutely safe, absolutely loved.



**Mame Jackson and her mother Virginia Jackson**

"Mom worked in psychological testing and later as a social worker, but she was 'at home' while my twin brothers and I were growing up. She was always there to welcome us after school, encouraging us to use our imaginations and have fun, and always teaching us new things like how to multiply numbers, how to make fudge, how to make friends, and how to take care of younger kids and so on. Mom always shared our tiniest triumphs and always supported our dreams, however grand."

"When Mom had to stop at the grocery store and Dad would see her coming back to the car, he would say, 'Look at her, isn't she beautiful!'"

"Mom came to St. Anne's Mead in August 2013, after being in an independent living residence in Saginaw for eight years. Saginaw had been her home for more than 60 years, and the decision to move here was Mom's, based on wanting to be closer to me and where more help would be available if needed. The staff here is kind and caring and the residents are comfortable and happy and enjoying their lives. I visit Mom frequently, sometimes just to share a quick cup of coffee or a root beer float, or longer for a game of Scrabble."

For Mame, as for most of us, however the tiles are drawn in real life, the word "Mother" will always have special meaning.

## Worth Repeating

### Here's what they are saying about St. Anne's Mead

*Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all you do for my Mom and for the many residents here. Your compassion, dedication and love is so apparent. I am so grateful that Mom is surrounded by caregivers like you!*

-- Annie Lowery

## Senior Tips

Prepare your visit with loved ones by taking something familiar and enjoyable to share:

- A Chocolate ice cream treat
- An old photo - enlarged for easy viewing
- A pet
- Check with caregivers for the best time to arrive

Once you arrive:

- Find a quiet area to visit- free of distractions
- Speak slowly, clearly and in a low pitch
- Participate in a group activity together

And, remember, for most seniors with any level of dementia, it is always best to enter their worlds, rather than try to bring them into yours.

-- Shawn Brooklier, Social Worker  
St. Anne's Mead



### Going Dutch

Spring arrived a bit late this year but signs of renewal now are everywhere, including this bunch of white tulips growing just outside the entrance to St. Anne's Mead.

## Reel Time

Here's what's playing on the next Movie Night:

### DOWNTON ABBEY

May 10: Season 1, Episode 5

May 17: Season 1, Episode 6

May 24: Season 1, Episode 7

All shown at 7:00 pm



*Families are encouraged to attend. The series will continue at the same time each Saturday evening.*

## Contact

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## Stay Connected



## Our Mission

St. Anne's Mead mission is to provide compassionate and professional health care and supportive services to seniors in a safe, secure, and loving home.

In keeping with our faith-based traditions, we endeavor to serve the unique needs of individuals and their families while preserving dignity and enriching lives.