

# 50 the Meadian



*A newsletter published periodically for families, friends and residents of St. Anne's Mead  
Celebrating 50 Years of Providing Loving Care*

MAY 8, 2016

## ***RESIDENTS, STAFF SHARE MEMORIES OF MOTHERS***

Good morning! It's Mother's Day, 2016.

We owe the occasion to one Anna Jarvis who in 1908 held a memorial for her mother, a peace activist who had tended the wounds of both Confederate and Union soldiers fighting the Civil War.

It was Anna's wish to honor all mothers, "the person who has done more for you than anyone else in the world."

Her efforts culminated in 1914, when President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation designating the second Sunday in May as a national holiday to honor mothers.

In pushing for the observance, she successfully argued that the word "Mother's" should "be a singular possessive, for each family to honor its own mother, not a plural possessive commemorating all mothers in the world."



SAINT ANNE HOLDING THE VIRGIN MARY

America's observance follows previous celebrations of motherhood that have played out over thousands of years throughout the world. One Greek celebration was devoted to Cybele, the mother of all gods, while the Romans had their own version in the festival of Hilaria.

Coincidentally, Anna is a version of the name Anne as in Saint Anne, our namesake who according to both Christian and Islamic tradition is the revered mother of the Virgin Mary and grandmother to Jesus Christ. (The word "mead" refers to the rolling Bloomfield Hills site that was originally chosen but was unavailable due to zoning restrictions.)

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When several residents and staff were asked to recall their fondest memories or first recollections of their mothers, similar attributes were mentioned.

LA TONYA THOMAS, a housekeeping associate, says the first thing she remembers about her mother, Barbara An, is combing her beautiful head of hair. Barbara died early in her life at age 43, with the dubious title of the longest living cancer patient in Michigan. When the media wanted to use that description, La Tonya's grandmother balked and successfully argued that her daughter's death due to cancer should not be exploited. "She died in 1984. the day of my high school graduation," says La Tonya whose fondest memory was of her reading the Bible. "She taught me how to break it down into quotes. She was always reading the Bible and everything going on now, she told me about 30 years ago," says La Tonya.



ESTELLA MAZUR'S most vivid memory of her Georgia-born mother Essie Thompkin was working with her "out in the fields, growing vegetables" and cooking meals over a wood-burning stove. That was in South Carolina where the family mainly grew cotton "between the mountains where they fought the Civil War until Hoover put an end to subsidies. That was the end of our cotton farm. In 1934, my oldest brother bought a Model-T Ford and we drove it all the way to Michigan. But as soon as we parked it in downtown Detroit, somebody stole it. Mother stayed back in South Carolina and joined us later on."

ROSELIE OHRENSTEIN says her mother was a very good cook. "Whoever would come through the front door, she would say 'Are you hungry?' She wanted to make sure they were fed, that they had something to eat. She was very giving. And, she could make something out of nothing; she even made her own noodles. Our whole dining room was filled with sheets of drying noodles," says Roselie. Roselie's mother did not believe her daughter needed to learn how to cook. She took care of the cooking herself. "The kitchen was her private space," says Roselie. "She didn't want anyone else in there." Roselie says she was a very good mother and had always wanted a "good little girl." "She told me to come home right from school and not to dilly-dally, and I did what she wanted because she was a great mother. She called me precious but I was only precious because she was precious," says Roselie.

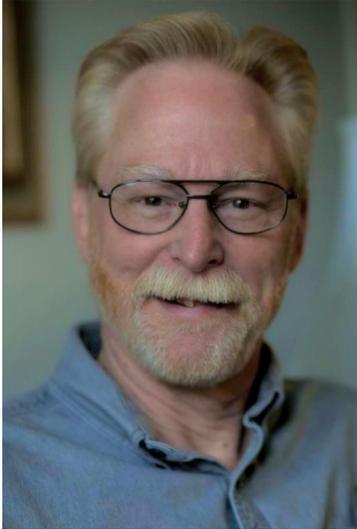


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PAUL PEPLER, accounting, lost his mother Marian, age 90, in April of this year. “What I remember most about her,” Paul says, “when we were growing up and going out, Mother would sit patiently at the window, peeking though the drapes, until the last of her kids were back safe at home. Sometimes that was really late.” Going further back, Paul says the first memory of mother, “was making sure that all of her kids had a good breakfast in them before heading off to school.”



## **New DIA Director to Speak at Gala Anniversary Fete**

Plans to observe St. Anne’s Mead’s 50th anniversary later this summer and fall are taking form. As previously mentioned, there will be two significant events to mark this year’s milestone: A fun-filled family Homecoming on July 23, and a Gala Dinner on October 15, at Plum Hollow Country Club in Southfield.

“The Homecoming will follow a 60’s theme, chosen because we opened officially in 1966,” says Jane Collins, Executive Director. “We are planning lots of family-oriented events and activities, the details of which are just now coming together. Over the next two months we will be providing specifics but for now what we can say for sure is that our very popular Family Fun Day is being wrapped into new 50th anniversary activities. That means a full day of fun, food and feel-good entertainment.”



SALVADOR SALORT-PONS

Highlighting the Gala Dinner will be speaker Salvador Salort-Pons newly appointed director of the Detroit Institute of Arts. He will be sharing his vision for the DIA and will discuss how expanding community programs in the City and in the suburbs will encourage greater interest in the DIA collection, upcoming shows, the arts in general and in particular local art which has been under appreciated.

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Tickets for the dinner are \$100. Attendees for the “cocktail attire” evening can purchase dinner tickets online through our website at [www.stannesmead.org/50th](http://www.stannesmead.org/50th).

The evening will be capped by a silent auction with proceeds going toward our new Memory Care Unit. A complete renovation of the space in the “300’s” wing is planned for this new unit. It will be designed for the special needs of memory care.

Watch for full details in the next issue of The Meadian.

## Worth Repeating

### *Here’s what they’re saying about St. Anne’s Mead*

*“I grew up at St. James Birmingham, but now I am a St. John’s Royal Oak member. My mother was a resident there (at St. Anne’s Mead) about nine years ago. She was a long time member of St. James, and she did some volunteer work at the Mead. The Mead is a treasure and I am glad there will be some history saved.”*

*-- Martha Gibiser Shea*

EDITOR’S NOTE: The history mentioned refers to an update being written for the 50th anniversary that will take place later this year.

## STAY CONNECTED



*Be sure to check our Facebook page for photos, videos and comments.*

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### 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.