

Ready for the outdoor concerts

We got to hear Monroe Wright III on June 23rd and we got a clear, hot summer day!



Janet was wise to bring her visor. The sun was shining brightly.

She said the music was just great!

Leon asked Jelly Otis to make him a teddy bear to take to his wife, Chelle



Lorraine, Marcia, Marge and Catherine borrowed stylish sunhats from the Sholom Recreation collection!

July Birthdays

In astrology, those born July 1–22 are Cancer’s Crabs. Crabs like to retreat into their “shells” and enjoy being surrounded by loved ones at home. They nurture deep relationships and become loyal friends. Those born July 23–31 are Leo’s Lions. These “kings of the savanna” are natural-born leaders, full of creativity, confidence, and charisma. Leos use their generosity and sense of humor to unite different groups into a common cause.

Sam “Chick” Shenfeld – July 14

- Thurgood Marshall (justice) – July 2, 1908
- Frida Kahlo (artist) – July 6, 1907
- Satchel Paige (ballplayer) – July 7, 1906
- Tom Hanks (actor) – July 9, 1956
- Henry David Thoreau (writer) – July 12, 1817
- Harrison Ford (actor) – July 13, 1942
- Carlos Santana (guitarist) – July 20, 1947
- Ernest Hemingway (writer) – July 21, 1899
- Amelia Earhart (pilot) – July 24, 1897



Bentson Bulletin

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Celebrating July

Anti-Boredom Month

Women’s Motorcycle Month

World Watercolor Month

Canada Day

July 1

Roswell UFO Days

July 1–3

Independence Day (U.S.)

July 4

Bastille Day (France)

July 14

“Wrong Way” Corrigan Day

July 17

World Chess Day

July 20

Summer Olympics in Tokyo

July 23 – August 8

World Lumberjack Championships

July 29–31

World Ranger Day

July 31

Starting with a clean slate

Every Bentson Bulletin newsletter cover story of the year has been related to our progress through the COVID pandemic. We have come a long, long way in the past year and are getting enough distance from the worst of it to recognize gifts that the experience offered. Simple pleasures bring more joy than they did before.

Our weekly programming calendar was once quite rigid and difficult to change due to established patterns. With the upheaval of the pandemic, the Sholom Recreation staff shifted and adapted offerings to match the mercurial recommendations. Hallway bingo and performers in the parking lot singing up to tenants in their bedroom windows are not likely to happen anymore. New programs like Group Scrabble and lobby concerts have become standard. We will likely keep programming videos for Channel 33 in addition to movies in the Community Room.

As we move forward, please watch for Tuesday Happy Hour presentations in person alternated with “virtual” performances broadcast on Channel 33. Trishaw bike rides are still available, but have been shifted to 10:30 am on Thursdays to avoid the afternoon heat of July. How would you feel about Bingo on Sunday instead of Mondays?

As always, please share your feedback about our activities with Liz. Whether praise or criticism, this insight is necessary for our monthly calendar to truly reflect the interests and preferences of the people who live here. Notes can be given in person, via phone (x2009) or via a note handed to Guest Services staff to put in her mailbox.

Summer Olympics in Tokyo

 The Games of the XXXII Olympiad were originally scheduled for last summer and are still officially known as Tokyo 2020. The competitions begin on July 23rd and events will continue daily until August 8th. Qualifying events have been going on all year. Many sports use performance over the last four years, which was complicated as events were cancelled due to the COVID pandemic. Team USA will send about 600 athletes

The schedule will include competition in 46 sports, including 5 new ones. The sports being included for the first time are Sport Climbing, Surfing, Skateboarding, Karate and Baseball/Softball. Many athletes with connections to Minnesota will compete including half of the Women's Gymnastics team. There will be a record 339 events held across 42 venues!

The Olympic Torch Relay is underway, journeying through all 47 prefectures of Japan over the course of 121 days. The torch will arrive in Tokyo on July 9th and progress around the city before the Opening Ceremonies on July 23rd. It will not be extinguished after the August 8th because the Paralympic Games begin August 24th and continue through September 5th.

Local coverage of the Summer Olympics will be on your television channel 11 (NBC) and will include daytime as well as evening coverage.



Music in the Auditorium again!



With the authorization to have indoor concerts WITH SINGING, we have wasted no time in June. This concert by Diane Zilverberg was well attended and we really rocked!

Spiritual Care Services



Singing is a central act to Jewish liturgy. Rabbi Nemiroff was so pleased to resume Sabbath celebrations recently in the Newman Chapel and the Dining Room. She will be out for about three weeks during July so you will see other leaders at services on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings. Jewish Sparks will be cancelled until her return on July 29th and Torah Study will be rescheduled.

Pastor Amy will be moving to on-call status after leading the first in-person Christian worship service this Friday at 1:00 pm in the Community Room. Pastor Scott Evanson has accepted the part-time position and is negotiating his schedule. We are working with local Catholic clergy to resume in-person Mass and Rosary/Communion services.

Rendever Virtual Reality (VR)



In the fall of 2016, two students at MIT launched a company to “help older adults overcome depression and social isolation through the immersive world of virtual reality”. Since then, the company has grown and is present in over 250 care centers around the world.

In 2018, Sholom East got 6 headsets which are like big ski goggles. They can be worn or just held up over the eyes. Sensors inside the unit use two screens to show a high definition, 360-degree picture. The viewer has depth perception due to slight differences in the view of each eye and these images move in response to head movements. The result is a very convincing illusion of being inside the picture and able to look around.

Facilitators of each experience can take a group of people into the same experience simultaneously, sending the same picture to each headset. Peers are all oriented the same way and can converse about the location in real time, but do not see each other in the image. Facilitators are provided with contextual information to read aloud about each location visited.

Liz has led over 100 such virtual reality sessions. This month we will be travelling around the world including visits to Greece, Australia and Florence, Italy. Please come try VR on Thursday afternoons at 2:30 pm in the Nosh Nook. If you have travelled, bring your souvenirs and suggestions about where to go next!

Independence Day Barbecue



Please sign up for our campus-wide barbecue! We will be celebrating on Wednesday July 7th under a tent in the parking lot. Todd Anderson will be providing entertainment and music. The lunch will be hot dogs, potato salad, watermelon, strawberry shortcake and lemonade. Patriotic attire is warmly encouraged and seating will begin at 11:00 am. Music begins at 11:15 and food service starts at 11:30. Attendance is optional and the Dining Room will be open as usual.

You can sign up with Guest Services or by talking to Liz before Friday. We were not able to celebrate together in July 2020, but this event has been a tradition before that. It feels good to get back to pre-pandemic programs!

Salon staff departure

In June we bid farewell to our Bentson Salon staff, Michelle. After pandemic restrictions led to many tenants getting their salon services elsewhere, Michelle was not able to keep her doors open.



We will revise the offer for this position to better represent the needs of our community before hiring again. In the interim, please reach out to Chapman Salon staff, Cathy Tapper at (612) 408-3632. She works Wednesdays and Fridays on the 3rd floor of the Chapman building. Her prices are the same as Michelle's were and are posted in the window of the Bentson Salon.