



The ROGERSON RECORD

Volume X ■ Issue III

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From The Desk Of President James F. Seagle, Jr.



Recently, I attended a memorial service for the husband of one of our former Board members, in fact the first woman Director. Becky Richardson's husband George was remembered by family, friends and former colleagues in a most moving ceremony. Dr. George Richardson, following a long family tradition, was a surgeon at the MGH. But he was far, far more: a scientist, a poet, a humorist, an accomplished singer, pianist and ballroom dancer – and much beloved for his caring bedside manner. Almost unheard of for a surgeon, he taught principles of patient care to medical students. A true renaissance man from one of the most prominent families of Boston, (Elliot Richardson, U.S. Attorney General, was his brother) he exhibited humility and

intellectual brilliance; altogether a difficult combination to balance in one person.

As his loving sons and friends gave testimony to the extraordinary life of this man, I could not help but wonder, “what will they say about me?” I had a close brush with the “great beyond” last year and now I find myself ruminating on such things. Interestingly, it was Dr. George Richardson that helped to snap me out of the self pitying patient blues. After a period of hospital treatment, Becky and George took me to lunch and George proceeded to apply that charismatic stimulus toward patient health. In frail health himself, he livened our lunch with anecdotes and snappy repartee. He really focused on me and made me feel important. There were some good laughs. Even though I have known Becky for over thirty years, this was the first and last time I would be with George, but in that short encounter, the guy gave me a shot of life.

George's last days were spent in hospice, but even then he managed to care for his family. His church choir singing may

Hong Lok House Breaks Ground

Rogerson Communities has been working with the Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center (GBCGAC), a nonprofit that serves Chinese-speaking Asian seniors, to develop a new Hong Lok House on Essex Street in Boston's Chinatown. On August 4, 2011 dignitaries, officials, and representatives put shovels in the ground to celebrate the beginning of construction of this property. This marks the culmination of a five year struggle to create a vital center for Chinatown's seniors.

The effort dates back to April, 2006 when GBCGAC first engaged Rogerson Communities to redevelop the existing Hong Lok House, an outdated HUD-202 residence for low-income elders. Developed in 1978, the 28-unit elder housing facility has been in great need of rehabilitation for years.



Hundreds gather to celebrate the vital community resource the new Hong Lok House will become for Boston's Chinatown elderly. Photo by Forrest Milder



Hong Lok House ground breaking ceremony, August 4, 2011.
Photo by MichaelBlanchard.com

Continued inside

Continued inside

Employee Profile Chrasandra Reeves

Chrasandra Reeves joined Rogerson Communities thirteen months ago as the Rogerson Egleston Adult Day Health Program Manager. Prior to joining Rogerson, Chrasandra worked at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center for 17 years while working on her degree from Emmanuel College. She also worked at Brigham and Women's as a resource specialist and at Faulkner Hospital as a patient liaison. Over the years, Chrasandra has done a great deal of public health work and community coalition building in Dorchester. While working, Chrasandra also earned her Master's in Health Administration from Suffolk University and a Certificate in Maternal and Child Health from Boston University School of Public Health.

Chrasandra meets with her staff each morning and reviews the schedule for the day ahead. As they embark on what is always a rich and full day, Chrasandra supports her staff in a variety of functions as needed and oversees the administration and logistics of the program operations.

Chrasandra really loves the population her program serves, as well as Rogerson Communities' mission of providing excellent services with a focus on dignity, longevity, and vitality – assuring respect for all the program clients. Chrasandra



Interview and photo by Islande Icart

Chrasandra Reeves at work managing the Rogerson Egleston Adult Day Health Program

said, "I like that my job can be fun too. Like the open house we held here on June 17th - it showed how creative and energetic the staff here truly are. The theme was Carnival. We had a number of visitors who joined the fun, and we enrolled a new client who is now attending our day program 5 days a week. The staff here all share a common goal – to continue doing our best to take care of our elderly."

Chrasandra was born in Boston and comes from a family of 11 children. She now lives in Dedham with her daughter and son. She enjoys meeting with a group of her friends each month for a "Women's Circle" – where they have supportive conversations about spirituality, health, parenting, financial planning, etc. ■

Chrasandra's Favorites, in her own words

Favorite activities: "I love music and dancing"

Favorite restaurant: Olive Garden... "I love pasta!"

Favorite book: Faith in the Valley: Lessons for Women on a Journey to Peace

15 minutes of fame: "Singing in my high school graduation."

Hong Lok House (Continued)

The new building will feature:

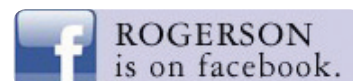
- 74 new apartments for low-income elders with an additional unit for a live-in manager
- An adult day health program for 32 participants daily, with wheelchair and street level accessibility and privacy for medical treatment
- "Green roof" and Tai Chi deck
- A separate senior drop-in center, offering community space, fitness programs and ballroom dancing.

Rogerson Communities is excited to continue its efforts in developing properties that meet high standards for green buildings. Hong Lok House will meet the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Silver standard.

"Working with Rogerson Communities to bring this project to fruition, I am thrilled and proud that construction of the New Hong Lok House is beginning. I am looking forward to the completion of this wonderful project and am excited to be planning for the programs and services for the residents and community's elders," stated Ruth Moy, Executive Director of Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center.

Located in the important Liberty Tree Historic District, the old facades of the buildings will be preserved and construction has been planned in stages in order to avoid displacing frail and elderly residents. Residents will be moved into new apartments before demolishing the old building. Most important, all units will remain affordable in perpetuity. Chai-Ming Sze Architect, Inc. designed the building and Walsh Brothers is general contractor. The new Hong Lok House will be the center of activity for Boston's Chinatown seniors and will promote a sense of stability, caring and community.

Rogerson Communities has begun to hire and train new staff for the various roles they will take on at Hong Lok House. Remember, you could receive a referral bonus for recommending a strong candidate that we hire. Continue to watch our website for upcoming employment opportunities. ■



From The Desk (Continued)

have leaned toward Bach, but now he harmonized “Dear Prudence” by the Beatles with his son. I felt that his memorial had something to do with me. I can hear him saying, “Have courage my friend, don’t waste your time worrying; use it wisely and well in the service of others, of family and yes, of yourself. Don’t miss a chance to sing or an opportunity to dance.” I left feeling inspired.

There is no life without death. Living forever and having to deal with great, great, great etc. grandchildren would be absurd, and quite frankly no fun. But, I feel that there is more for me to do in this life and it helps to have a model like Dr. George Richardson; a doctor who was not afraid to touch his patients and so many others. ■

WALK TO END ALZHEIMER’S WITH ROGERSON COMMUNITIES SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH, 10 AM

If you are interested in joining the team, please contact Sheila Place at 617-469-5836 or place@rogerson.org

MAKING STRIDES AGAINST BREAST CANCER WITH ROGERSON COMMUNITIES SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2ND, 10 AM

If you are interested in joining the team, please contact Natasha Farrington in Human Resources at 617-469-5812 or farrington@rogerson.org

Healthy Rogerson A Healthy New Focus



While we may be too late for our most delicious, local pick-your-own variety, the benefits of adding strawberries is worth noting.

A summer favorite, strawberries pack a healthy punch with their fiber, vitamin C, potassium and antioxidants; did you know that a serving (roughly 8 strawberries) has more vitamin C than a whole orange? They are also sodium and fat free – which makes them a natural choice for a delicious dessert or a nice afternoon snack.

Want another reason to eat these delicious berries? The antioxidants found in strawberries are anti-inflammatory, which makes them good for your heart and your waist. These anti-oxidants can also help to decrease one’s risk of heart disease, stroke and cancer.

Strawberries are not alone, however, in their ability to provide delicious flavor and multiple health benefits. Blueberries and raspberries share many of the same benefits and, if you hurry, you might still be able to pick some fresh ones for yourself! Blueberries and raspberries are ready for picking later in the growing season – so hit that farmers market one last time! ■

The Rogerson Review

The Book [Let the Great World Spin](#) by Colum McCann

Reviewer Francesca Ricci, Rogerson Roslindale Adult Day Health Program Manager

The Verdict In 1974 Philippe Petit walked a tightrope across the World Trade Center towers in New York City. Although McCann does not use Petit’s name his character is central to the story in [Let the Great World Spin](#) and the walk is the focal point joining all the characters in the book.

The novel brings us into the lives of a dozen different fictional characters from many walks of life, from Park Avenue mothers to street-walking prostitutes to computer hackers to radical monks. The elder character in the book, Gloria, is part of a group of women who meet regularly because they lost sons in the Viet Nam war. McCann embraces diversity and reflects the characters’ all-encompassing natures and their unexpected abilities to connect with each other in the most unlikely situations. In the background, yet central to the story, is the tightrope walker and his obvious use as a metaphor for the sometimes difficult and challenging lives of the characters that are portrayed.

McCann’s writing style is simple yet lyrical, drawing the reader into the scene whether it is a waterfront home in Dublin or the gritty streets of New York City. His characters have depth and the way he weaves and intertwines the individual stories into a cohesive whole makes for a page turner you won’t want to put down and a book you will be sad to finish.

The ROGERSONRECORD

A Rogerson Communities Publication for
Rogerson Communities Employees

Email story ideas, news, or comments to news@rogerson.org

Jeff Walker, Managing Editor

ROGERSON HOUSE PHILANTHROPISTS



Handcrafted dollhouses, created by Rogerson House residents and participants, were donated to The Italian Home where they will be used for play therapy by children in need.

Rogerson House residents and participants combined their talents of woodworking, quilting, painting and design to collectively build two dollhouses. Each dollhouse is about two feet wide by 18 inches tall. Every detail of the dollhouses was carefully implemented - they painted and attached the roof, decorated each item of furniture inside, stitched miniature quilts for the beds and rugs for the floors. Creating the dollhouses was an enriching experience for these residents and participants, working together to bring these houses to life. For people with memory loss, having a sense of purpose is very important. These dollhouses provided an outlet for participants to use skills they otherwise might have forgotten. Having completed these unique dollhouses, the residents and staff at Rogerson House decided to donate them to a place where children could use and enjoy them.

On August 8, 2011, representatives from Rogerson House visited The Italian Home to present them with the two handmade dollhouses. Five residents from the day program and assisted living were present to help share their stories about building the houses, and to witness the joy their donation brought to the children. Rogerson House Executive Director Betsy Ross and Art Therapist Jenny Merigold also attended to provide additional background on the project. The staff at The Italian Home plans to use the houses for play therapy with the children they serve. Rogerson House residents, participants, and staff are proud that the dollhouse project they have found both meaningful and therapeutic can now similarly enrich the lives of children in need. ■

- Story and photo contributed by Kristen Woulfe

New Hires

Veronica Boyd – Rogerson House – CNA
Kieanna Burton – Rogerson House – Recreation Assistant
Angela Butler – Rogerson House – Recreation Assistant
Nicholas Collotta – Farnsworth House – Houskeeping Staff
Mary Ingram – Rogerson House – CNA
Paula Honore – Rogerson House – CNA
Ka Hung – Spencer House – Assistant Property Manager
Barbara Johnson – Rogerson House – CNA
Ruth Kaldun – Rogerson House – Dietary Aide

HR Focus

Leyre Gillis
Director of Human Resources



Recently in this space, I wrote about keeping our mission in mind as you do your work. In this issue I'd like to focus on professionalism – which can mean different things to different people. For some, the word might conjure up images of business suits and board meetings – a corporate setting. But professionalism has a meaning beyond that type of stiff, businesslike environment.

A positive aspect of working at Rogerson Communities is that we have a very caring, laid back environment. Certainly we don't want our clients and residents to feel as if they live or spend time in a corporate or institutional setting, so we maintain a fairly casual atmosphere.

It can be challenging to balance a warm, familial atmosphere with professionalism and boundaries that ensure we create a positive impression on clients, residents, and colleagues. The way we dress matters in terms of presenting a professional demeanor; we don't make a practice of coming to work in suits every day here at Rogerson, but we still strive to show up to work looking

neat and appropriate every day. Other small things also determine our level of professionalism – our tone of voice, our body language, our attitude in the face of a stressful day or requests from managers or colleagues to go the extra mile. It's the details that create the lasting impression – like being polished, kind, and respectful of everyone we encounter – clients, residents, and their families, as well as coworkers, managers, and outside vendors.

Life can understandably be overwhelming at times – in both good ways and in bad – but it is imperative to stop once in a while and think about the image we project in the workplace and whether it is professional. The work our employees do at Rogerson is challenging, but also deeply important and rewarding – we can all be proud of our work and strive to project that pride by presenting ourselves in a way that people can't help but think what a kind, hard working, and professional group of people we are here at Rogerson Communities. ■

Shella Laureus – Rogerson House – Recreation Assistant
Nadine Moore – Rogerson House – CNA
Sharaye Ragland – Rogerson House – CNA
Joyce Rodriguez – Rogerson House – CNA
Stephanie Sakonju – Rogerson House – CNA
Max Singer – Rogerson House – Dietary Aide
Michelle Spencer – Egleston ADHP – LPN
Inga Sporn – Rogerson House – RN
Mattie Stripling – Rogerson House – CNA
Qing Zeng – Rosindale House – Maintenance Staff