

# LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Serving the elderly poor in Washington, D.C. since 1871.

Summer 2015  
Volume 8 | Issue 1

**JEANNE JUGAN RESIDENCE**

4200 Harewood Road, NE  
Washington, D.C. 20017



## JEANNE JUGAN RESIDENCE

### Genevieve Murphy Receives Special Award...

#### For Sharing In The Care of the Needy Aged



### SAVE THE DATE

**St. Jeanne Jugan's Feast Day**  
August 30

**Summer Sweepstakes**  
July 22 - September 21

**APPALOOSA Music Festival**  
September 5 & 6

Genevieve Murphy, a life-long friend to the Little Sisters, is the first-ever recipient of our home's "Little Sisters of the Poor Prayerful Gratitude Award," for her leadership in organizing ten years of Tea and Tulips, inspiring and encouraging imaginative ways for volunteers to engage in our home, and helping the Sisters meet their challenges and accomplish their mission to care for this city's elderly poor.

Surprising Murphy during Tea & Tulips — our annual "Friend-Raising" event — April 12, five Little Sisters made their way to the podium. "There is someone very special to whom we Little Sisters would like to say thank you," said Sr. Constance at the microphone, "that person is Genevieve Murphy. As the niece of a Little Sister, she has been a part of our religious family her whole life. She has also been a special friend, supporter and champion of Jeanne Jugan Residence for more years than any of us can count. Thank you Genevieve, for understanding — for understanding the spirit of Saint Jeanne Jugan and her love for the elderly, for understanding her unconditional confidence in Divine

Providence and our need to rely on the help of the local community for the continuation of our mission, and thank you too for understanding the needs of the elderly themselves — their desire for friendship, accompaniment, compassion and a reason to smile each day."

Sister then asked individuals — all those who became volunteers or donors due to Murphy's influence — to stand, and more than 200 women rose to their feet...the room spontaneously erupting into a rousing round of applause.

Asking "Geni" to join them, the Sisters presented her with the award. "It is people like you who make the heart of Jeanne Jugan Residence beat with love for the elderly," said Sister Constance. Along with the award, the Sisters presented her with the framed artwork painted by one of our Residents. We hope it will serve as a reminder of our deep gratitude for her friendship, understanding and love. Thank you, Genevieve, for showing us the beauty of a life lived for others.



*The Sisters surprised Genevieve during the tea with their heartfelt 'Thank You,' and request that she join them at the podium. She has inspired many of her friends to become our friends through her energy and enthusiasm for our mission. The Sisters present the award to "Geni," along with the framed 'Cherry Tree' artwork of Leonard Donatelli, Resident. Genevieve's service to our home inspired the creation of this award, which we will present to extraordinary friends who champion our mission and the elderly we serve. Top, Genevieve takes a moment to pose with "Mr. V," one of our Residents with whom she visits often.*



## DC Metro Area Community Rallies...

### Helps to Provide Safe Home for Our Residents and Future Generations of Needy Elderly

We are joyful that Phase II of our capital campaign – replacing out-of-code heating and cooling systems and more than 300 leaky-windows original to the 1964 and 1982 buildings, renovating the 2nd and 3rd floors of the convent, and addressing remaining safety issues like black mold and an outdated fire alarm system – is underway.

As good stewards of what God has given us through our benefactors' generosity; we are tending to our aging buildings' infrastructures to keep our Residents and Little Sisters safe and comfortable, and to accommodate future generations of this city's aged poor. The Little Sisters have welcomed and cared for more than 15,000 aged Washingtonians since arriving here from France in 1871, and are committed to caring for the city's elders for many years to come.

We are amazed by the recently completed projects. In fact, we were thrilled by two

May events; one, when a crane lifted our new cooling towers over the building and into place, and again, when crews began installing new windows in Resident rooms [right].

"We are not there yet, but we are so very close," said Mother Mary Michael, "our home is a safer place because of the community's support and prayers." So far, 7,714 donors have helped by investing in our future with gifts to our campaign that range from \$2 to \$2 million. Every donation counts... each dollar helping to ensure our success.

Though work continues, hundreds of yards of new copper piping [center bottom] and hundreds of new double-pane windows have been installed, replacing corroded-pipes [left] and windows that leaked, causing damage to the brick facade. Also gone are the old boilers [top center], water pumps and cooling tower.

A recent inspection showed that we could no

Our foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan often exclaimed in gratitude, "Our benefactors, where would we be without them?"

longer delay this project to replace the boilers, as costs to heat our home reached nearly \$30,000 per month, and maintenance costs were soaring. Our new high-efficiency hot-water boilers will save us 30% to 40% in heating costs next winter. While the new cooling tower is contributing to further efficiency and savings.

We thank God for the goodness of the many people who support our mission – whether it is the donation of a loaf of bread or the money needed to make these urgent repairs – and we hope we can count on you for your continuing support of our mission.

Collectively, these upgrades and repairs will protect building structure, save energy, reduce maintenance and energy costs, ensure the long-term sustainability of our facility, and put our home in a secure position for years to come. Happily, we anticipate completing Phase II work this fall.

## Tea & Tulips 10th Annual "Friend-Raising"

### A Delightful Success

Our 10th Annual Tea & Tulips "Friend-Raising" event held at Columbia Country Club in April was a delightful success. 275 women – old and new friends – attended to enjoy visits with friends, and a sumptuous buffet of savory sandwiches and sweet treats. During a lively raffle of 18 fabulous baskets created by the committee, more than \$37,000 was raised. "We're designating this money to the Sisters' Capital Campaign, and hope it will put them over their goal," said Genevieve Murphy, the event's Chairperson.

The Tulips – members of our wonderful Awareness Committee – with the help of tea-goers have raised more than \$290,000 and hundreds of volunteers since the first event. "The Little Sisters are so very blessed to have such loving support from these remarkable women and the community" said Mother Mary Michael. In fact, individuals and groups have spent more than 7,800 hours volunteering in our home in the past four years. While the value of their volunteer time is more than \$300,000, the resulting happiness and smiles of our Residents are priceless!

Please know of the grateful prayers of the Little Sisters and those of the elderly we serve. May God bless you!

We hope you join us next spring for our  
11th Annual Tea & Tulips - April 10, 2016!



The Tea & Tulips Awareness Committee gathers for their 10th Anniversary photo with the Sisters. Back Row: Patti Farrell, Ashley Allman, Aimee Dominick, Ellen Conley, Cathie Lively, Sr. Constance, Susan Gorman, Ellen Cullen, Seated: Sr. Celestine and Mother Mary Michael Kneeling: Nancy Itteilag Donnelly, Genevieve Murphy holding "tiny tulip" Evvie Dominick, and Suzie Squier. Not pictured: Mary Beth Donnelly





**Antoinette holds a cheery flower, which Residents made to give as gifts or to use as room decoration.**



**Sr. Celestine dips her fingers into paint to create blossoms, while Leonard blows through a straw to create branches.**

## From Blossoms and Bangles to Chocolate Cream Pie

### Residents Exercise Creative Skills

It was with happy hearts that we bid *adieu* to the snow and welcomed spring. Residents and Little Sisters toured Washington's famous cherry trees, and the Residents did an art project where they learned a Japanese technique for painting the trees.

Our activities team holds arts and craft sessions a couple of times each month. The group provides cognitive challenges and opportunities for creativity, while also promoting camaraderie among the Residents. They have made everything from lavender wands, paintings, and stained glass art, to holiday pins and Valentine necklaces. It is a wonderful opportunity for Residents who enjoy the arts, want to learn something new, or simply like to socialize. Most recently, Sister Constance taught them to make giant paper flowers for our Cinco de Mayo fiesta.

For Mother's Day the Residents made and sold decoupaged bracelets, each of

which bore a thoughtful saying about mothers, grandmothers, daughters, sisters or aunts. Proceeds from the sale of the bracelets were donated to a fund for a young woman in Baltimore who is planning on entering the Little Sisters as a postulant in October. In general candidates for religious life must be debt-free before beginning their formation, so educational debt can be an almost insurmountable obstacle to pursuing a religious vocation. The Residents were thrilled to have the opportunity to support a young woman in the pursuit of her vocation. Their bracelets, made from curved tongue depressors, netted more than \$300 in profits!

In addition to crafts, the Residents have also been enjoying opportunities to do a bit of cooking and baking. Our activities staff is happy to find recipes based on Resident requests ... so far they have made everything from perogies to chocolate cream pie.



**Irene cuts scrapbook paper into the shape of a cuff bracelet. Afterwards, she coats the bracelet with Modge Podge, presses on the paper, and rubs out any bubbles.**



**Sister placed nearly a dozen bangles on our model, Vivetta. Residents lovingly made more than six dozen cuffs to sell for Mother's Day.**

## Jeanne Jugan Award

### Rose Mubang, Charge Nurse

Rose Mubang, a 9-year veteran of our home and one of the charge nurses attending to Residents on our Good Shepherd nursing unit, is the latest recipient of the Jeanne Jugan Award for "best living out the spirit of our Mother Foundress as an employee of our home."

The Jeanne Jugan award was created to recognize those employees who go beyond as they carry out the mission of the Little Sisters. Each year, the Little Sisters invite employees to contemplate the virtues and vision of Jeanne Jugan, and then to nominate a co-worker whom they feel contributes to living her spirit.

"This year's award winner is Rose Mubang," announced by Mother Mary Michael during an impromptu gathering of our "little family," of Residents, Little Sisters, and employees in the second floor dining room. Rose was so very surprised to hear her name. "Thank you so very much, this is such an honor...I'm just doing my job," she said accepting the microphone from Mother's hand, "I just want all of us to work peacefully together in the spirit of Saint Jeanne Jugan, with great love and care for our Residents." Rose's humble and loving response to winning this award is proof of what we all already know - that she is so deserving of this award - and it is no surprise to us that she is this year's award recipient. Even surveyors from the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services mentioned Rose during one of their visits saying "it's been an honor to watch Rose interact with your Residents... so visible is her joy, love and patience... and they [the Residents] respond so happily to her."

Rose, a native of Cameroon, earned her nursing degree from VMT Education Center in Washington, D.C., a degree in Early Childhood Education/Pedagogy from the Montessori Centre in London and a degree in Psychology from Emerson College, Forest Row in East Sussex, UK.

A mother of three sons and two daughters, Rose lives in Bowie with her husband, Amos. She enjoys reading, dancing, and singing, and spending time with her family, especially her two grandsons.



# Mother's Corner

By: Mother Mary Michael



We thank God for the compassion of so many people who opened their hearts to support our mission, as we tend our aging buildings' infrastructure to sustain a safe and comfortable home for our Residents and all the Little Sisters, and to care for this city's elders for many years to come!

Our little family is elated that Phase II of our Capital Campaign is underway and watching with great joy the installation of new double-pane windows around our home – in the convent and in our Residents' rooms – knowing that now when it rains everyone will stay dry. Our home is a safer place today because of the outpouring of support and prayers from the community. Happily, we anticipate completing Phase II work this fall. We are not there yet, but we are so very close.

We continue to pray for Pope Francis' visit to Washington, D.C. this fall. His messages of compassion and human dignity fill our hearts and inspire us with our own obligations to care for one another.

I wish you many blessings and safe travels this summer, and assure you of our prayers for your intentions.

## Prayer for Consecrated Persons

God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as sisters, brothers, religious priests, consecrated virgins, and hermits, as well as members of Secular Institutes.

Renew their knowledge and love of you, and send your Holy Spirit to help them respond generously and courageously to your will.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

# LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Visit us at [www.littlesistersofthepoorwashingtondc.org](http://www.littlesistersofthepoorwashingtondc.org)

## The Need Continues

Bequests are one of the most meaningful sources of funds for the ministry of the Little Sisters of the Poor. Through the advanced planning and generosity of others, we are blessed to continue working with the elderly. You can help ensure our future by planning a special gift – create a trust while you are living, make a simple bequest to the Little Sisters of the Poor of Washington, D.C., Inc. in your will, or name the Little Sisters as the beneficiary of your life insurance or retirement plan.

Funds generated through planned gifts are devoted to current funding needs as well as capital projects. In fact, we rely on legacy gifts, which often arrive just in time to pay for expenses that are outside our regular budget.



32 such gifts totaling more than \$6 million have been designated to our Building Together on Sacred Ground Capital Campaign as an investment in our future.

Every donation counts... each dollar helping the Little Sisters of the Poor provide loving care to our Residents. For details, contact Heather Cave, our director of development 202-269-1831 or [devwashington@littlesistersofthepoor.org](mailto:devwashington@littlesistersofthepoor.org). Thank you for helping us help others!

## Upcoming Events

### St. Jeanne Jugan's Feast Day

August 30

*On a cold winter's day in 1839, Jeanne Jugan, welcomed an elderly destitute, blind woman into her home. Jeanne gave Anne Chauvin her bed, a "home," where meals were shared, joys multiplied and sorrows divided.*

*Please join us as we unite in prayer to offer our gratitude for the life and example of Saint Jeanne Jugan. We will gather in our chapel, to celebrate Jeanne's gesture of loving hospitality.*

### Summer Sweepstakes

July 22 – September 21

*Watch for Sweepstakes tickets due in mailboxes this July! The sweeps runs July 22 thru Sept. 21 - drawing Sept. 23. All money raised goes to our Fuel Fund.*

### Appaloosa:

#### Music & Outdoors Festival

September 5 & 6, Front Royal, Virginia

**MUSIC:** Hosted by Scythian, a DC Based folk-rock band, Appaloosa features 25+ bands playing on 3 stages! From DC favorites like Scythian and Danny Burns to California folk bands, Appaloosa has your music tastes covered.

**NOTE:** 5% of the proceeds go to support our mission - caring for the aged poor.

**GREAT OUTDOORS:** Appaloosa is set on a farm in the shadow of the Blue Ridge Mountains and is just a mile from the Shenandoah River. There is camping available on site, plus opportunities in the immediate vicinity to hike, canoe, fish, bike, etc.

Ticket sales coming soon! For now, sign up for email updates to get all of the latest news on the festival at [appaloosafestival.com](http://appaloosafestival.com).



#### FEATURE ARTIST LINEUP

Scythian-DC  
Mipso-NC  
Marie Miller-Front Royal, VA  
Tom McBride-DC  
this mountain-TN  
Danny Burns Band-Ireland/DC  
Kevin Heider-OH  
Alanna-Marie Boudreau-MI  
Hope and Justin-CA  
Miss Shevaugh & Yuma Wray-CA  
Ken Wenzel & Cross Kentucky-DC  
Ben-David Warner-VA