



THOSE WE SERVE ARE THE REASON WE EXIST

THE BREWSTER PLACE STORY — PART 4

BY JANIS SWANSON, EDITOR

In the late 1950s, Frances Engler’s elderly aunt was encountering a few difficulties living on her own. After a fall on her back porch, Auntie Engler was hospitalized for a short stay and then returned home. Frances and her husband Roy would help Auntie with grocery shopping and other errands, but Auntie did not want to be a burden to them. The Englers feared that Auntie wouldn’t call them when she needed help, so they looked for other living options. At that time the only suitable home in Topeka for seniors was the Methodist Home for the Aged — which was full and had no place for their dear aunt. The Englers wondered why other churches in Topeka hadn’t built homes for seniors. One day, Roy Engler said to his wife, “Why don’t we offer our church ten acres of our farm for a building site. Maybe we could start something.” The Englers did indeed start something.

Brewster Place Residents Are Invited
REDWOOD CELEBRATION

*Celebrating Our Residents
and the Redwood Renovation*

Wednesday, April 10

3:00 pm

Redwood First Floor

Semi Formal Attire
Hors d'oeuvres | Cocktails

On April 10, 1964 Mrs. Darlene Newby and Mr. Lester Filson were the first residents to move in.

The Englers did indeed start something.

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, “Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.” The Englers, along with the founders of Brewster Place, embodied this quote perfectly. In previous issues of the Brewster News, we have highlighted the challenges the founders faced, the roadmap they created to build such a home, and the incredible early volunteers and staff members who made the dream a reality. But what is a beautiful new home without residents? This month we will look at how the first residents made Brewster Place their home.

When Executive Director Nathan Barr arrived in Topeka in 1961 to begin the hard work of building Brewster Place, he immediately began

learning about Topeka and meeting with the various groups from the four Congregational churches. He attended picnics, chili suppers and social gatherings. These meetings became known as “**Buzz and Chatter**” groups and served as the way to publicize the vision

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MISSION

Brewster Place is a retirement community providing all of its residents opportunities for an optimal quality of life.

During this 60th anniversary year, we have been highlighting the history of Brewster Place. Our founders had an idea and a dream to build a community that would meet the needs of seniors in our community. The vision of the pastors and lay leaders of our four founding churches, and the years of planning, fundraising and hard work that followed, allowed Brewster Place to open its doors in 1964. As a faith-based, not-for-profit, mission-driven organization, Brewster Place adheres to a set of core values that sets us apart from other communities.

Through the years we've experienced sunshine and clouds as well as changes to our landscape, but those who followed in the footsteps of our founders, share the same commitment to the mission of Brewster Place — providing all of our residents opportunities for an optimal quality of life. How wonderful it is that we have such a rich history to look to and lean on for inspiration and guidance. Brewster Place residents, their family members, and the greater community have also been able to depend on **The Congregational Home Foundation's** unwavering commitment to the Brewster Place mission. **The mission of the Brewster Foundation is to "raise funds in support of Brewster and its endowment."**

It is springtime, a time of new beginnings and hope. As we celebrate our 60th anniversary and the completion of the Redwood renovation — our foundational building — we hope you will consider a gift to the Brewster Foundation in support of our shared Brewster family. There are many options for giving to the Brewster Foundation that support both residents and staff. For example, a donation to the **Benevolent Care**

Fund enables residents to remain at Brewster Place when their financial resources are depleted. Donation opportunities are available to support staff as well. Through the **Employee Assistance and Support Fund**, emergency loans and grants are available to help staff avoid high interest credit cards and predatory loans when they need financial assistance.

Your gifts to the **Chaplaincy Fund** help to support Vespers services, group and individual chaplaincy work, plus numerous regularly scheduled programs and support materials. In addition, the Foundation's **Unrestricted Fund** continues to address our greatest needs, funding the highest priority projects and initiatives throughout the campus.

Our strength is derived from the generosity and support of you, the donor. You remain the key to our success. Please consider a gift to the Brewster Foundation to support our ongoing work to fulfill our mission to you and to those who will follow. Thank you!

If you would like to make a gift to the Brewster Foundation, please use the form included in this issue and return to Melissa Reynolds, Chief Financial Officer, at Redwood. If you have any questions, please call Melissa at 785-274-3381 or email her at: melissar@brewsterliving.org. ■

*All gifts, large and small,
are greatly appreciated.
Thank you!*



GOD'S PROMISES ARE TRUE

BY CHAPLAIN JULIE FREEMAN, M.DIV

We made it! Spring is here. Cooler weather is making way for sunshine and rain. Flowers are beginning to bloom. Trees and grass are greening up again. New life is springing forth all around us. Our faith has carried us through the dark days of winter and light has broken through. We are reminded that God's promises of love and grace are true. So as a good friend used to say, "stick your face in the sun," listen to the birds chirping and remember that you are not alone.

SPIRITUAL LIFE OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday Supper Club

Sunday, April 7

4:00 pm

Evergreens Brewster Bean

Bring your dinner and join us for fun, fellowship and curious conversations.

Devotions and Donuts

Sunday mornings

9:30 am

Evergreens Brewster Bean

Join us for coffee, donuts and a short devotion with Chaplain Julie.

Unbound Gratitude Group

Monday, April 15

2:00 pm

Main Street Chapel

Finding life again after loss through gratitude with Chaplain Julie.

Sunday Worship

1:00 pm

Brewster Health Center

Sunday Vespers

2:30 pm

Main Street Chapel

All are welcome!

COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICES

Catholic Mass

Lead by St. Matthew Catholic Church

First Friday Each Month

11:00 am

Main Street Chapel

Episcopal Service

Lead by Grace Episcopal Cathedral

Fourth Thursday Each Month

4:00 pm

Main Street Chapel

If you would like to speak to Chaplain Julie Freeman, M.Div., she can be reached at 785-274-3349. You can email her at julief@brewsterliving.org. Her office is located at The Evergreens. ■

BREWSTER PLACE VETERANS HALL OF HONOR

The Brewster Place Veterans Hall of Honor is located in the hallway adjacent to Main Street on the lower level of Redwood. This special hall honors veterans, including residents, former residents, relatives, staff and friends of Brewster Place, by displaying honor tiles and a photo gallery.

If you are interested in honoring a veteran with a tile, please call Cheryl Shaffer at 785-274-3327 for more information. Tiles are \$250 each. If you would like to have a photo included in the gallery, please contact Janis Swanson at 785-274-3389. Adding a photo is free. ■

RESIDENT DIRECTORY

The updated Resident Directory is nearing completion. If you have updated information including phone number (cell or landline) or email addresses, please call Maxine Thuston at 785-274-3374, by Friday, April 12. Thank you! ■



New faces, new places and still home sweet home! The renovation of the Redwood building is nearly complete and that means our new residents are moving in. Sixteen of the 23 new apartments become homes over the next couple of months.

While Redwood is being refitted, refurbished, and redesigned with the feeling of home, friendship and neighborhood remains the most spectacular feature of the flagship building. The newly renovated apartments offer full kitchens, and ensuite laundry with a variety of floor plans on the first, fifth and new sixth floor.

The second, third and fourth floors are also being updated and renovated. By the end of spring, the Catered Living apartment floors that include full meal plans and laundry service will also take on a fabulous new look.

If you would like to take a tour of the Redwood, give Brewster Place Sales and Marketing a call at 785-274-3351. Residents in Independent Living who make a new referral to Brewster will receive one month's free rent once the friend moves in. ■



THE GRATITUDE CREW PRESENTS
FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT
Complete with Pasta Bar and Prizes

Join us for a fun evening while we watch
Cheaper by the Dozen 2

Friday, April 5
Free Pasta Bar Dinner
4:30—5:30 pm

Movie: *Cheaper by the Dozen 2*
5:00 pm
Cultural Arts Center

PRIZES

- Pasta Night Kit
- Dinner and Movie
- Free Large Pizza

*Open to residents, staff, family members
and BrewsterConnect members.*

FUTURE EVENTS

New Theatre and Restaurant

Wednesday, June 5 | 9:45 am | Shuttle pick up in Evergreen Lobby only

New Theatre is bringing back George Wendt and Bernadette Birkett in *Squabbles*. It shows the good, the bad, and the in-laws. Jerry and Alice are happily married until her father decides to move in with them. Then his mother moves in with them. Then all hell breaks loose — family style. Tickets are \$36 and includes lunch. Transportation is \$13. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 as space is limited. ■



CREATIVE ARTS WITH JASON BERRYMAN

Meet & Greet

Come meet Jason and share your ideas for the creative arts program at Brewster Place.

Tuesday, April 2

1:00 pm

Redwood Art Studio

Jason's office is located at The Evergreens. His phone number is 785-274-3317.

We want to extend a warm welcome to our new Creative Arts Coordinator, Jason Berryman. Jason began work at Brewster Place at the end of March.

Jason brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the Resident Services Team. He holds a bachelor of fine arts degree from Washburn University and taught art at Topeka West High School for 27 years.

In his teaching career, Jason taught a variety of classes including design, art history and photography. While not having any sewing experience, Jason is excited to learn from our sewers and quilters.

Jason has taught all age groups and all skill levels and commented that he has, "a knack for taking complicated ideas and techniques and making them simple."

Brewster Place a long history of nurturing the creative side of our residents, and we look forward to the new classes and programs Jason will provide.

Please join us on Tuesday, April 2 to welcome Jason and share your ideas about the art program at Brewster Place. ■

THANK YOU!

To all of my friends at Brewster Place,

Thank you all so much for bringing me into the Brewster family over these last two years. From step-by-step paintings, to tea towels, to quilts and Bazaars, I've loved all the laughter we've shared. Creating with you has brought so much joy into my life. You all will always hold a special place in my heart, and I am forever grateful that you all were put in my path. My life is richer for being in this place with you, and I will miss seeing you every day.

Please keep creating! Painting, sewing, gardening, decorating, anything! Whichever way you make things, make them! What you create makes the world brighter. Thank you sharing your joy and time with me. Happy creating!

-Sam Banks

CALLING ALL HAND QUILTERS

Bazaar Quilt Workshop

Every Monday

9:30 am

Redwood Art Studio

Are you interested in helping with a project to benefit the Brewster community? We are looking for experienced hand quilters to come work on the quilt for the Bazaar drawing. We meet Monday mornings at 9:30 am in the sewing studio in the Redwood building. Bring your own thimble and snippers. ■

KU OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

NO HOMEWORK. NO PRESSURE. JUST LEARNING FOR THE JOY OF IT!



Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 to register.

Brewster Place residents and BrewsterConnect members attend for free.

▶ **SPRING 2024**

United States Vice President: Insignificant Position or Second Most Powerful Office?

Tuesdays, April 9, 16 and 23

1:00—3:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center

We'll explore U.S. Constitutional requirements and powers given to U.S. vice presidents as we study the evolution of the position from someone "waiting in the wings" performing ceremonial duties, to becoming an influential and respected advisor. We'll examine how the relationship between the president and vice president has changed over the years.

▶ **SUMMER 2024**

The Musical Theatre of Lerner and Loewe

Tuesdays, June 11, 18 and 25

1:00—3:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center

Three of the most enduring musicals from Broadway's Golden Era — Brigadoon (1947), My Fair Lady (1956) and Camelot (1960) — were created by the team of writer Alan Jay Lerner and composer Frederick Loewe. This class will explore this memorable collaboration with emphasis on these three shows, as well as Lerner and Loewe's other notable projects, including the film Gigi (1958). Their work earned Academy Awards, Tony Awards, Golden Globes and Kennedy Center Honors.

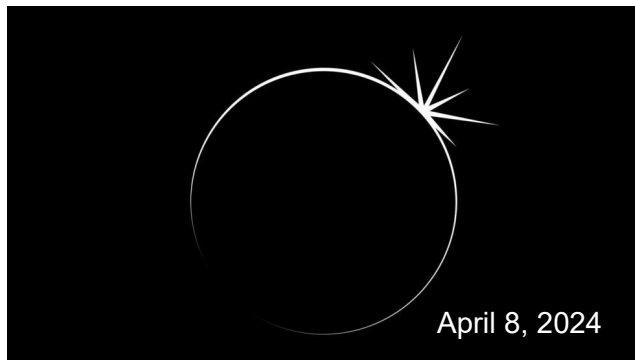
Young Generals of the American Civil War

Tuesdays, July 16, 23 and 30

1:00—3:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center

During the American Civil War, the United States Army grew exponentially in size. In order to command the increased number of troops, general officers were created from younger members of the military. This class will focus on the generation of young leaders who served in the ranks of the Union Army attaining senior military positions outside the traditional norm. The class will look at the careers and war making abilities of officers in both the Western and Eastern Theaters. The first class will examine the military exploits of Western Theater generals William T. Sherman, Benjamin Grierson, Judson Kilpatrick, and John Schofield. The second class will move to the Eastern Theater and focus on Union generals Winfield Hancock, John Gibbon, George McClellan, Alfred Pleasonton, and Joshua Chamberlain. The last class will examine the Civil War careers of three of the youngest Union generals that attained senior rank, George Custer, Philip Sheridan, and Darius Couch. ■

TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE



JOIN US FOR THIS BIG EVENT!

Monday, April 8 | 1:00 pm
Begin at Cultural Arts Center

North America will experience its second total solar eclipse in seven years. The moon will glide over the surface of our sun, casting a shadow over a swath of the Earth below. Along the path, the world will turn dark as night. It will start at sunrise in Mexico and travel throughout the day to end in Canada.

Topeka is not in the direct path but should be able to see 90% of the eclipse assuming and hoping for no clouds.

Important Details for Event

- **Eclipse glasses** will be sold in The Market for \$3 starting April 1. One per resident, please.
- The Brewster Choir will sing at 1:00 pm in the Cultural Arts Center
- After the choir sings, we will move to the top level of the parking garage.
- Maximum coverage will occur at 1:53pm lasting four minutes.

Please note that it is never safe to look directly at the sun. Protective eye equipment will be necessary. ■

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and hopefully recruit residents. At first it was a hard sell since there were no drawings or plans to show prospective residents. But once plans for the apartments, together with an artist's sketch of the building were available, the interest in the home grew. In fact, a small efficiency apartment was set up in the basement of Central Church by the Publicity Committee. This allowed future residents the opportunity to see how a small space could provide everything they needed with the added safety and security of living in a senior community.

Applicants had to be 62 years of age or older and were required to make an initial Accommodation Fee, which depending on the size and location of the apartment, ranged from \$7,750 to \$23,900. Apartments that were larger, facing west or on higher floors were deemed more desirable so were more expensive. By November 1961 Mr. Barr had 20 approved applications (the majority from Congregational churches) — even before there was assurance the home would be built.

Interestingly, in the beginning applications were reviewed by the Admissions Committee who would recommend to the Board of Directors its acceptance for rejection. It didn't take long to realize this process was too complicated and took too long. Amazingly, after five years of planning it only took a little over a year to complete the main building. The first residents to arrive were **Mr. Lester Filson and Mrs. Darlene Newby** who both moved in on **April 10, 1964**, five weeks before the dedication of the building, and before all walks, drives and sidewalks were in place. By the end of April, 29 people lived at Brewster Place. ■

(Information for this article was compiled from The Brewster Place Story: A Dream Come True)

EXPLORE THE MIDWEST GENEALOGY CENTER



Wednesday, April 3 leaving at 8:30 am
Shuttle Pick Up at Evergreens
Lunch is \$10 | Transportation is \$13
Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398
as space is limited.

The Midwest Genealogy Center (MGC) is one of the United States' preeminent resources for family history, providing access to almost three-quarters of a million on-site materials. MGC features 52,000 square feet of space that houses all of the free resources needed to research your family history.

We are excited to have the opportunity to explore this library. Our day will begin with a class about newspaper databases accessible through this library. Newspaper databases can be used to find genealogical information such as birth, marriage, and death records, obituaries, probate cases, and interesting information about your ancestors' lives. Then we take a break for turkey sandwich lunch. After lunch we will enjoy a guided tour of the library and finish our day with a hands-on class using the library's computers. ■

WE SPECIALIZE IN OPPORTUNITIES AND LOTS OF SMILES



Longtime Brewster Place resident **Lillie DaMetz** enjoyed the St. Patrick's Day Pub Crawl at Brewster Health Center. The Quality of Life Team knocked it out of the park serving a variety of treats and delicious drinks. Thank you!



Jeanene Johnson and Pattie Jones, who both live at The Evergreens, attended a workshop at the Redwood Art Studio recently. The new studio space is light and bright and has wonderful areas for painting, sewing and quilting and other creative pursuits. A new schedule of art classes will be coming out soon, so stay tuned!



The **Infants at Work** program is going strong! This program allows staff to have their newborn babies come to work with them until they are six months old. This is **Rosie**, our very own lucky charm, and her mama **Taylor Leone, Director of Social Services**.



BrewsterLiving.org



OFF CAMPUS — A few highlights!

CORNERSTONE SCHOOL SPRING CONCERT

Tuesday, April 2 | 6:00 pm | Shuttle (pick up from EV lobby only)

Come and enjoy the beautiful voices at the Cornerstone Homeschool Choir Concert. The Choir is directed by Dorothy Illiff, daughter of Mary Muilenburg. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 as space is limited.

A DAY AT THE MIDWEST GENEALOGY CENTER IN INDEPENDENCE, MO

Wednesday, April 3 | 8:30 am | Shuttle (pick up from EV lobby only)

See article on page 8 of this issue.

PRIVATE TOUR OF KANSAS CITY DOWNTOWN CHURCHES

Wednesday, April 17 | 8:30 am | Shuttle (pick up from EV lobby only)

We will begin our day with a spring drive to Kansas City with a quick look around Kauffman Gardens. Then it is off to tour beautiful churches that are steeped in history and culture of KC. These churches are not only beautiful but also places of worship that have stood the test of time. Each church has a unique story to tell and they all have something to offer visitors. We will determine the lunch stop based on the groups preference (there will be several restaurants to choose from). Tour of churches is \$10 per person. Transportation is \$13. Lunch is a Dutch treat. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 as space is limited.

DINNER AT TEXAS ROADHOUSE AND TULIPS AT TWILIGHT

Thursday, April 18 | 4:00 pm | Shuttle (pick up from EV lobby only)

We will begin our evening with a delicious and rowdy meal at Texas Roadhouse. Then go to Lake Shawnee and look at the tulips with the grand finale being going to Ward Meade Park to see Tulips at Twilight. Suggested donation is \$5 per person. Dinner is a Dutch treat. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 as space is limited.

SPRING DAY IN THE COUNTRY

Wednesday, April 24 | 8:30 am | Shuttle pick up in Evergreen Lobby

We will begin our day with a drive out passed Ottawa to see some COOL tractors. We will check out lots of old tractors and talk about the good old days with Jackie Buchanan's brother. Then off to a BBQ lunch of pork sandwiches and fixings at Smokin Creations. We will meander home with stops at Henry's Plant Shop and hopefully some ice cream. Lunch is \$17. Transportation is \$13. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 as space is limited.

TOPEKA CIVIC THEATRE

Thursday, April 25 | 6:00 pm | Shuttle pick up in Evergreen Lobby

Hear their story of the battle to save a legacy when TCT presents *THE BOOK OF WILL*. Without William Shakespeare, we wouldn't have literary masterpieces like Romeo and Juliet. But without Henry Condell and John Heminges, we would have lost half of Shakespeare's plays forever! After the death of their friend and mentor, the two actors are determined to compile the First Folio and preserve the words that shaped their lives. They'll just have to borrow, beg, and band together to get it done. Amidst the noise and color of Elizabethan London, *THE BOOK OF WILL* finds an unforgettable true story of love, loss, and laughter, and sheds new light on a man you may think you know. Tickets are \$35. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 as space is limited.

TOPEKA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Saturday, April 27 | 6:45 pm | Shuttle pick up in Evergreen Lobby

Let's get off our couch and go to the movies! At this exciting concert, the Symphony will play the classics like *Lara's Theme* from *Dr. Zhivago* and *Moon River* from *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, and beautiful scores from newer Hollywood releases like the love theme from the *Star Wars* Prequels and the score from *Angela's Ashes*. Don't miss this finale to TSO's year of FOMO concerts with a night of unforgettable music from the silver screen. For tickets, please call 785-232-2032 to purchase. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 to make a transportation reservation as space is limited.

ON CAMPUS — A few highlights!

THE GREAT SOLAR ECLIPSE OF 2024

Monday, April 8 | 1:00 pm | Begin at Cultural Arts Center for Choir

Please article on page 7 of this issue.

KU OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING SERIES

**United States Vice President: Insignificant Position or Second Most Powerful Office?
Tuesdays, April 9, 16 and 23 | 1:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center**

We'll explore U.S. Constitutional requirements and powers given to U.S. vice presidents as we study the evolution of the position from someone "waiting in the wings" performing ceremonial duties, to becoming an influential and respected advisor. We'll examine how the relationship between the president and vice president has changed over the years. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 to register.

MOVIE DAY IN: OPPENHEIMER

Thursday, April 11 | 1:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center

Oppenheimer is a 2023 epic biographical thriller film^[a] written, directed, and co-produced by Christopher Nolan. It follows the life of J. Robert Oppenheimer, the American theoretical physicist who helped develop the first nuclear weapons during World War II. Based on the 2005 biography *American Prometheus*. The film chronicles Oppenheimer's studies, his direction of the Los Alamos Laboratory, and his fall from grace after his 1954 security hearing. Cillian Murphy stars as Oppenheimer, alongside Robert Downey Jr. as the United States Atomic Energy Commission member Lewis Strauss.

KICKOFF MEETING: BREWSTER BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, April 16 | 10:00 am | Main Street Pavilion

Let's start an old fashion book group. We will read and discuss books the group chooses from the library.

SARA TUCKER PRESENTS:

THE OTHER GREAT EARLIEST CIVILIZATION: THE EGYPT OF THE PHARAOHS

Tuesday, April 18 | 2:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center

Sara is a gifted speaker and loves all things history. She taught many years at Washburn University and is happy to share her knowledge with us. She will be presenting a program called: **The Other Great Earliest Civilization: the Egypt of the Pharaohs**. Be sure to come.

COMEDY AND MAGIC SHOW

Tuesday, April 23 | 6:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center

Come enjoy a little comedy mixed with magic by Joseph Stringer. This program is sponsored by the Brewster Service Fund.