



# OPTIONS

2013 SUMMER EDITION

## A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR SUMMER VOLUNTEERS!

SHO loves to have community volunteers and this summer we've been lucky enough to have a lot of them! Here are just a couple of highlights:

As part of Temple Emanuel's "Mitzvah Day," 14 volunteers from the Temple came down to The Barth Hotel on a Sunday morning and helped stuff over 500 American Red Cross backpacks for our residents. The backpacks are part of SHO's emergency preparedness plan. In the event of an evacuation, each resident at our 13 communities will have a backpack filled with helpful items like a flashlight, batteries, emergency blanket, rain poncho and first-aid kit. What would have taken SHO employees hours and hours to complete, together with the volunteers from Temple Emanuel, we accomplished in just over 2 hours! Thank you to the Temple Emanuel volunteers!!

SHO also welcomed The Week of Hope youth volunteers at several of our communities including The Barth Hotel, Cinnamon Park, Park Hill and The Olin. This is the 3rd year in a row that we are lucky to have these energetic and inspiring teens from around the country. The volunteers did everything from painting and cleaning windows to playing in a Wii bowling tournament



with the residents. On behalf of all of the residents that benefitted from the Week of Hope volunteers, we thank you!!

If you're interested in volunteering at a SHO community, we can always use your help! It's a great opportunity to meet new people, experience something new and, most importantly, make a difference in someone's life. For more information on how to become a volunteer, call 303.595.4464 (ext. 10) or visit our website at [www.seniorhousingoptions.org](http://www.seniorhousingoptions.org).

## LIFE GARDEN MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY

By Julie Hutchinson

REPRINTED FROM *LIFE ON CAPITOL HILL* – JULY 2013

Few things please me more than a well-tended garden.

But when that well-tended garden is well loved...and I mean every petal, every leaf adored...then the whole world should be pleased.

I have found a spot on Capitol Hill where a garden grows well tended and well loved.

Tucked behind a tall, iron fence... its posts spread far enough apart that you, too, can see this garden...it grows about as close as two plants in a pot on one of Capitol Hill's iconic corners known for drug deals on one corner and The Basilica of the Immaculate Conception on another.

Colfax and Logan isn't exactly the Garden of Eden, yet at The Olin, just a bit up Logan, a hundred or so devoted gardeners shower their courtyard garden with devotion.

You could probably call The Olin the

"Basilica of Immaculate Gardening."

The Olin is owned by Senior Housing Options, a not-for-profit organization that provides quality affordable housing and services for low-income senior citizens. About 100 people live there and every single one has benefitted from the green oasis in the courtyard.

Sharon Gonzales acts as the head priestess of the garden, inspecting it every morning and every evening for the stray weed or leaf that drifts down from towering trees that frame the courtyard.

"Before, the courtyard was dirt," she explained. "We said we wanted more flowers."

The result: An oasis of green.

"Look at it!" said Randy Kilbourn, an Olin resident whose own raised bed includes stones engraved with inspiring words and killer hot pepper plants. "It's beautiful! It's peaceful. It's calming."

Kilbourn, the self-described "official deadheader" of The Olin garden, spends hours in the courtyard daily fussing with the plants, chatting with fellow residents and just looking.

Maria Wiles, another regular in the courtyard says "I love it!"

And that pretty much sums it up. People love The Olin garden because it is beautiful. It created life in a space that once was just a place to smoke. It gave the residents a real backyard, a never-ending project to think about and chat about.

And, perhaps most important, something to care about.

The guy who helped pull this whole thing together is Nate Jarvis, a towering 30-something from Cortez who acts as the building administrator.

"The residents have put a lot of time and effort into the courtyard and they all work together to keep it looking

spectacular," Jarvis said. "The work has brought our residents together as a community. The happiness our residents get from the courtyard is priceless. In the end, that is what we are here for: to create a comfortable housing situation for everyone."

It's a garden that belongs to every single one of its worshippers. A garden that gives back to them as much or more than its caretakers give to it. A garden that is living, daily proof of the power of plants to transform places and people.

Mosey down the east side of Logan between Colfax and 14th some afternoon about four o'clock, when the sun is at a beautiful angle. Peep inside the iron fence. Behold a miracle.

(Edited for space. To see the whole article with pictures, visit [http://issuu.com/lifeoncapitoll/docs/loch\\_13-07-fb/30?e=5664609/3856706](http://issuu.com/lifeoncapitoll/docs/loch_13-07-fb/30?e=5664609/3856706))

## SHO Receives A Major Bequest

A number of years ago, Board member Ralph Barocas introduced his client, Christine Hubbell to SHO. She visited for a light lunch and tour of The Barth. We must have made an impression. Several months ago, Mrs. Hubbell passed away. We were

notified that SHO was a major beneficiary of Mrs. Hubbell's estate. What an amazing and much appreciated surprise. Funds will be used in part to develop learning centers at residences. To honor Mrs. Hubbell and her generosity, they will be named

in her honor: **The Christine Hubbell Senior Housing Options Learning Centers**. And special thanks to Ralph Barocas for helping this happen.

For more information on leaving a legacy for SHO, please contact us at 303.595.4464 ex. 10.



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## WE'VE BEEN BUSY!

Check out what's been going on at some of the SHO communities!

### Rummage Sale Anyone?

Every summer Madison House, Park Hill, Emerson Gardens, and Cinnamon Park all hold a rummage sale. It's a fun community effort where families and residents work together to organize and sell all of the gently used merchandise that was donated. Proceeds from our rummage sales go directly to our residents and the money is spent on things they otherwise couldn't afford like a movie or nice lunch in a restaurant. Thank you to all those who donated merchandise and special thanks to the Week of Hope volunteers who helped out at certain communities.

### Second Annual Walk-a-Thon at Park Hill Residence

What better way to spend a Saturday in June than going for a walk in the beautiful Park Hill neighborhood! That's what 18 Park Hill residents did on June 22nd and guess what? Over half of them walked more than 5 blocks and they raised \$370! Thank you to all the sponsors and those who walked with each of the residents!

### Kremmling Days 2013

As part of the Kremmling Days Celebration this year, Cliffview and Silver Spruce residents enjoyed being part of the parade. Cliffview resident dog, Tyrone, also rode along with his owner, Jeff Pexton, Administrator at Cliffview!



## NOT TO BE MISSED!!

**Remember Dolly Parton and Shirley McClaine in the movie, *Steel Magnolias*?** This year, SHO presents Robert Harling's play – the funny and touching story of six Southern women at Truvy's Beauty Salon. Award-winning former Broadway actor Billie McBride returns to SHO this year (her third production here) and director Ashlee Temple (Denver Center for the Performing Arts) once again takes the reins for SHO after directing "Driving Miss Daisy" last year.

**An all-star cast!** Two-time Ovation Award winner Rhonda Brown plays Truvy, a beauty salon owner in the fictional town of Chinquapin, Louisiana, where the town's leading ladies come for hair care, gossip, and wise-cracking free advice. Devon James, who recently won "Best Supporting Actress" from the True West Awards, plays Truvy's young assistant Annelle. McBride takes on the town curmudgeon, Ouiser, and Patty Figel is cast as the eccentric millionaire Miss Clairee. Celebrated actress Rachel Fowler plays socialite M'Lynn, whose daughter Shelby – played by local favorite Adrian Egolf – is planning her wedding.

Filled with hilarious repartee, the play moves toward tragedy when, in the second act, the spunky Shelby (who is a diabetic) risks pregnancy, leading all the characters to appreciate both the fragility and strength at the core of Southern women.

*Steel Magnolias* is the sixth annual summer theater fundraiser for SHO. The production is SHO's major – and only – annual fundraiser and builds on the success of past award nominees such as *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *Chasing Manet* and *Driving Miss Daisy*.

### TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

August 1–24, 2013

Every Thursday, Friday  
 and Saturday at 7:30 PM

The Barth Hotel  
 1514 17th St., Denver

For tickets call

303.595.4464 ext. 10

or visit our website at

[www.seniorhousingoptions.org](http://www.seniorhousingoptions.org)

General Admission: \$25

Preferred Seating: \$35



### FROM OUR OWN BILLIE MCBRIDE:

"I have had the privilege of working at The Barth Hotel in the annual fundraising benefit for SHO. My first foray into the lobby / theatre was with a play called *Chasing Manet* and last year I did *Driving Miss Daisy*. I can't possibly explain how rewarding this has been for me and I so look forward to being back with *Steel Magnolias* and this magnificent cast. The Staff at The Barth and The Olin where we rehearse are wonderful. They go through a lot to help us during our stay in 'their home'. The residents are delightful, surprising, loving and provide a lot of wonderful laughs. It is a wonderful opportunity to do what I love for all the right reasons."