

TALES FROM Camelot

Under its new private ownership, Camelot Chateau now truly lives up to its name by offering state-of-the-art, yet affordable, assisted living services and a whole new chapter of inspirational stories.



HILDA SPARKMAN hadn't planned on falling in love.

Widowed, retired and recovering from a series of strokes, the former Forest High School teacher was just settling into her new assisted living quarters at Camelot Chateau when along came Larry Hebert.

"A friend of ours introduced us outside the elevators," remembers Larry, also a resident, who moved into Camelot after waking from a six-month diabetic coma.

"I wasn't looking and nor was he," Hilda adds, as the two tell their story from Camelot's freshly painted dining room. "But it was love at first sight."

Hilda and Larry were married last October, just three months after that first meeting. It was a quiet affair held at Living Hope Community Church. The bride wore pale pink; the groom, navy blue and white. Today, their smiles say it all as they prepare to celebrate their first year of marriage, and their story is living proof that growing older doesn't have to mean the end of new beginnings.

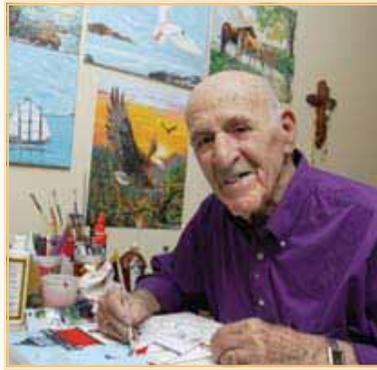
Elizabeth Sukys, director of operations at Camelot Chateau since the change in ownership, is well aware of that fact. Her experience in the senior housing industry, aided by passion and perfectionism, helped her transform the once-neglected facility into a state-of-the-art retreat, where residents would not only be more comfortable and better cared for, but also inspired, encouraged and engaged in life.

“Assisted living is not scary,” Sukys says. “It’s literally about taking the last years of your life and making the best of them.”



GARY BURBURACK is certainly making the best of his time at Camelot. After moving to the facility last November, his participation in art activities rekindled a long-held passion for painting, which he has channeled into impressive prints that cover the walls of his room and warm the hearts of the residents and staff members he paints them for. Although he was accepted to The Ringling College of Art and Design back in 1960, Burburack never pursued that education, and just like Hilda and Larry, he found a second chance at Camelot – a chance to do what truly moves him.

“I love to paint,” Burburack says. “It gives me self satisfaction. I’m working on three different pictures right now.”



ALBERT LA FONTAINE shares the passion for painting with Burburack. La Fontaine’s well-executed paintings immediately catch your eye when you walk into the bright dining room. He, too, has found new inspiration through his transition to assisted living at Camelot, and he expresses it with a paintbrush.

“I paint almost every day,” La Fontaine says. “I’ve been doing it for 25 years. It relaxes me and gets my mind off things – keeps me busy.”

Director of Food Services Jose Benevante has certainly noticed La Fontaine’s diligent devotion to art. “Oh, he can paint,” Benevante says. “His stuff is great; it’s hanging all over this office. He also plays the harmonica. I’ve learned so much just from sitting and talking with him. He’s taught me to make the best of every moment.”

Spend five minutes with any staff member at Camelot Chateau, and you’ll notice that they all speak of their residents with the same pride as Benevante, including Director of Maintenance Carlos Tarrats.

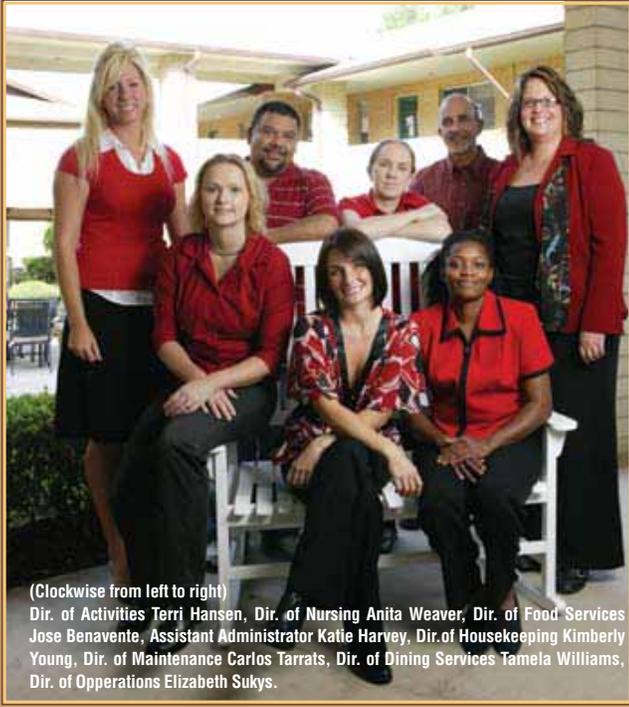
“I think when you start working in this type of facility, you love these people and treat them like they were your own family,” says Tarrats, who has been working on Camelot’s ongoing renovations. “Every renovation, I did because this is their home. I do it because I want to improve and make this a better place for my residents.”

Tarrats improvements are impossible not to notice. In addition to the building’s refurbished structure and aesthetics, most evident its brand new dining room, Camelot now boasts a private room where residents can entertain their visitors, new landscaping and soon-to-be remodeled resident living quarters. Since the ownership change, there have also been efforts to better train the staff, upgrade equipment and make sure that residents are the No. 1 priority.



RESIDENT MARGE CRISCOLA has lived at Camelot for nearly four years. “They’ve done a fantastic job,” Marge says exuberantly. “It’s unbelievable. I mean the dining room – oh my word! Plus, I see a lot of changes in the residents. When they first come in, they’re scared to death. It’s a big transition. But everybody helps out everybody here, and the staff is trained really well. The staff is excellent.”

The staff is also passionate about what they do. Just ask Terri Hansen, director of activities. “I feel like I had a calling for this – like I’m where I’m supposed to be,” she says. “My goal each day is just to make life a little more fulfilling and happy for our residents. They’ve lost some of their independence, and that can be hard. So, we take them on outings, we have social events and we bring in a lot of entertainment. That’s why I’m here. If I can make one day a little



(Clockwise from left to right)
 Dir. of Activities Terri Hansen, Dir. of Nursing Anita Weaver, Dir. of Food Services Jose Benavente, Assistant Administrator Katie Harvey, Dir. of Housekeeping Kimberly Young, Dir. of Maintenance Carlos Tarrats, Dir. of Dining Services Tamela Williams, Dir. of Operations Elizabeth Sukys.

Camelot's Staff Says...

"The building is in a lot better repair," says Director of Housekeeping Kimberly Young, when asked about Camelot's ownership change. "The residents are happier and they have more good days than bad days than they did before."

"I would not work in a facility that I wouldn't bring my own family to," says Anita Weaver, director of nursing since December 2006. "And I love what I do. It feels good to care for our residents because without them, we wouldn't be here. I would probably work 24-seven if I didn't have my own family."

"Our residents are important to us, and we do everything we can to make them happy," says Director of Dining Services Tamela Williams. "Like, we have a set menu that we follow for meals, but we get requests on a daily basis and so we always try to give them what they want. If you bring them something they like and it brightens their day, it's just the best."

"There's never a dull moment," says Assistant Administrator Katie Harvey. "I love it here. It's a wonderful place, and I'm so fortunate to get to come here every day."



"Don't let it be forgot
 that once there was a
 spot, for one brief shining
 moment, that was known
 as Camelot."

better for them, then I know I've done my job."

The days aren't just a little better at Camelot since the ownership change. They're a lot better. Hilda and Larry will often curl up to watch movies from Blockbuster, even though their plotlines pale in comparison to the couple's own heartwarming story of second-chance love. Gary and Albert continue to discover new realms of artistic expression, and Marge delights in the décor of the dining room, where she tells stories about Dodger, her beloved cat, who the facility happily accommodates. These seemingly small triumphs, as Elizabeth and her staff well know, make Camelot Chateau what it is – a facility that specializes not in assisted living, but one that specializes in life.

"I've worked in a lot of high-end communities and people aren't happy just because you have the best towels or fanciest furniture," she says. "What they want is to feel appreciated, that they're part of a family. That's what matters – knowing that someone cares. That's what we've been able to accomplish here, and it's a fabulous thing."

F O R M O R E I N F O R M A T I O N

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