

What “Pushes the Bell”?



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For Don & Earlene Sharpe it was their health that ‘pushed the bell’ and had them looking into communities that could provide any and all the care they would need for the rest of their lives. Both still active and involved in their neighborhood saw the opportunity of downsizing and simplifying as a positive goal to accomplish while it was still something they could work on together.

“After thirty years in the same house, I was able to let go of so much stuff,” said Earlene. “It wasn’t always easy

but once going, the load got lighter and that felt better.” She explained their reasons and process for making the decision while sitting in her sixth floor, East-facing, two-bedroom apartment one month after moving into Terwilliger Plaza. All the boxes were unpacked, special pieces of furniture comfortably set around the living room, cut crystal bowls on the sideboard and the good china tucked away in the bright, new kitchen.

“We were looking for several things in a new home,” she said. “We wanted someplace that could provide all stages of care for our peace of mind. We wanted security but in a friendly and welcoming place. And the view!”

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Story continued inside

Crafting a Community

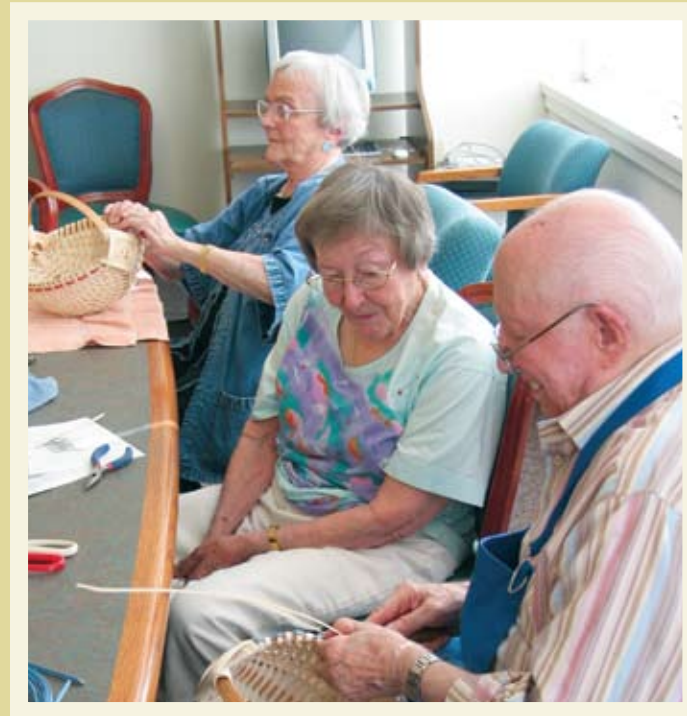
What do melon, apple and market have in common? Yes, all can be found at the farmers' fruit stands; however at Terwilliger Plaza, they are also names for the basic baskets taught by resident weaver Bill Wilson. Members have been joining his weekly basketmaking classes to learn

these skills, and more, like basket lore and traditions from various cultures.

Providing tools and rattan, cane and other supplies, Bill offers members a nine-week class meeting for three hours each week. Members are learning a new skill or material use for weaving beautiful and practical baskets.

"I was noticing a lack of arts and crafts classes or activities," said Bill Wilson, who is 90-years-young and a retired educator. "I thought that maybe my own hobby might be of interest, so I started to mention to others the idea and soon I had several levels of classes forming. It's invigorating to see the activity, plus basket weaving helps keep the fingers and mind nimble."

Bill Wilson demonstrates to Molly Dusenberry the basket weave, while Jane Goeth works in the background on her Melon Basket.



Bill has also led the Joyful Notes group, a weekly sing-along for 8 years, and helps manage Terwilliger Plaza's resident theatrical troupe in readings and performances. Since he and his wife, Virginia 'Lee' Wilson, moved in January 2001, Bill has been actively creating a community that many here appreciate. He has served as Chairman of the Board of Directors, and currently serves as the Foundation's President.

His basket hobby came about in 1988, and by the time he moved to Terwilliger Plaza, he had made 1,995 of them. That has since grown to 2,065 baskets, of course not all are still with him since he has sold many, given many, and donated them to friends and family. His current favorite style is the Appalachian Splint Woven, but he also likes the Seminole Patchwork and Shaker "Cat's Head" and others that he generously teaches to members.

So from his first Melon Basket in 1988, where he was one man among twelve women in the class, he now continues an ancient craft tradition at Terwilliger Plaza weaving the tales and facts of other cultures with the warp and weft of our community.

New Service at Terwilliger Plaza

Terwilliger Plaza has launched a new In-Home Care program for its Members. The program is designed to customize valuable services that meet our Members' needs so they can be healthy and happy in the comfort of their home here.

This 24-hour-a-day/7-day-a-week service is divided into two areas:

- **Homemaking/Health Services**, which includes personal care, meal planning and companionship.
- **Nursing Services** includes medication management, nurse assessments and case management.

All In-Home Care staff has a minimum of two years professional experience and are skilled and compassionate people who are carefully selected to provide personal care.

Terwilliger Plaza is pleased to offer this important addition to our healthcare services. By design, this program can meet our members' needs in their own home thus extending their independent lifestyle.

Move In Special!

Are you ready to move into your new community so you can spend a worry-free holiday? If you are tired of raking leaves or dreading the snow shovel's return, or maybe just noticed a new leak in the roof, then our Fall Move-in Specials might be just the incentive you need. Take possession of your new home at Terwilliger Plaza by the end 2009, and you can take advantage of our current specials:

2009 SPECIAL #1

20.09% discount off traditional membership fees on select apartments.

2009 SPECIAL #2

\$500 moving company credit toward moving, downsizing or getting set up.

Celebrate the Holidays in Comfort and Style at Terwilliger Plaza.

What "Pushes the Bell"? Cont. from Cover

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Don and Earlene had lived in the Vista Hills area of Portland since 1978, loving their tree-lined streets and close friends. But part of making the decision was choosing someplace that would provide true vistas of the mountains, river and city.

"When I was growing up in Northwest Portland, and attended Caitlin Gabel, I knew of teachers who lived at

Legislation Update

In 2009, Oregon Legislation passed HB 2138 prescribing a new requirement of continuing care retirement communities, which mandates that, effective 1/1/2010, they include at least one resident as a non-voting representative on the governing body. This person must be allowed to participate in discussions related to budgets, fee increases, indebtedness, and expansion of facilities. The governing body must make board minutes available to any residents.

Terwilliger Plaza was founded as a member-governed community; thereby residents make up the majority of the voting board of directors. They oversee the finance and investment committee and hold the majority of seats on the supporting Foundation. Our members hear financial updates at quarterly Town Hall gatherings and have access to minutes, annual audits and financial reports in the community's library.

An on-site management team gives members access to the CEO and CFO with concerns or questions. And it's their neighbors who develop policies and provide oversight on the community's business activities. If a community where you have a voice in decisions appeals to you, visit Terwilliger Plaza.

Terwilliger Plaza Makes List

Terwilliger Plaza made the 2009 list of the First Annual 100 Best Nonprofits to Work For in Oregon. Over 200 non-profits participated and over 6,700 employees completed the survey answering 60 questions about workplace satisfaction, benefits, management, trust, environment and development. The organizations answered another 50 questions on workplace compensation and practices. The survey was independently calculated by research partners Davis, Hibbitts and Midghall and sponsored by Oregon Business Journal. Terwilliger Plaza is proud to make the list, but more so for our excellent staff, who do make it a great place to work.



Terwilliger Plaza

A place for life.

