

About Elsie Drake

Sylvia Friedman

We recently lost a lovely member of Thorpe Senior Center, Elsie Drake. I first met Elsie about 10 years ago when I became a member of Thorpe Center. She was warm and welcoming and we “Hit it Off”. I sat with her on the van that transported us to and from the center and very often at lunch time. I was very fortunate to have had the pleasure of meeting her 3 beautiful daughters several times. They seem to have inherited her wonderful qualities.

I recall Elsie and her girls hosting a “picnic” in her back yard several times over the years. For the Thorpe membership preparing and serving food in a beautiful setting.

She was active in her Church and was always ready to prepare soups etc... and deliver it to the Church.

Her passing is a terrible loss to all who knew her. I, for one, will miss her terribly.

Rest Well, my Friend, You deserve it.

A Tribute to Elsie

Pat O'Donnell

Let me begin by saying how much we miss her. Seeing Elsie 4 days each week, enjoying her company and having good times was certainly our pleasure. As we always seem to say “It won't be the same without you, Elsie.”

We had a really nice turnout at Elsie's wake and funeral. Elsie looked so lovely dressed in pink. To complete the pink theme, was a huge floral spray on her casket and a final touch of: Elsie's last work of Art with Sister Anne – A floral picture all in pink! Which left us all oohing and aahing!

Many Humorous stories were relayed bringing a smile and a chuckle to us. Upon browsing the photo table one stood out that left a lasting smile: Remembering Elsie as she sat in a hot tub relaxing on her vacation at her daughter Diana's new

home in the Poconos. I'm so glad Elsie had the opportunity to see Diana's new home and enjoy her mini vacations there.

Gratefully Anticipated

Sister Lois

Sister Maureen and Sister Jude,

Your publication is surely one I anticipate with joy and I have not been disappointed. The interesting, informative articles help to keep me alert and I truly appreciate the snippets I cut out, save and periodically refer to: years ago I learned them and now as I recall them, I am reminded of the circumstances when Sister William Anna or Sister Austin taught them to our class.

I thank you and pray that God will continue to bless you and your noble work.

Butterfly

Submitted by Sister Jude Miriam

A butterfly lights beside us like a sunbeam,

And for a brief moment its glory and beauty belong to our world.

But, then it flies on again, and though we wish it could have stayed

We feel lucky to have seen it.

Something to you thinking

1. Johnny's mother had three children. The first child was named April. The second child was named May. What was the third child's name?
2. There is a clerk at the butcher shop, He is five feet ten inches tall, and he wears size 13 sneakers. What does he weigh?
3. Before Mt. Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain in the world?
4. How much dirt is there in a hole that measures two feet by three feet by four feet?
5. What word in the English Language is always spelled incorrectly?

6. Billy was born on December 28th, yet his birthday is always in the summer. How is this possible?
7. In California, you cannot take a picture of a man with a wooden leg. Why not?
8. What was the President's name in 1975?
9. If you were running a race, and you passed the person in 2nd place, what place would you be in now?
10. Which is correct to, "the yolk of the egg are white" or "The yolk of the egg is white"?
11. If the farmer has 5 haystacks in one field and 4 haystacks in the other field, how many haystacks would he have if he combined them all in another field?

Answers – no peeking

1. Johnny, of course
2. Meat
3. Mt. Everest; it just wasn't discovered yet. (You're not very good at this are you?)
4. There is not dirt in a hole.
5. Incorrectly
6. Billy lives in the Southern Hemisphere
7. You can't take pictures with a wooded leg. You need a camera to take pictures.
8. Same as it is now – Barack Obama (Oh, come on...he hasn't changed his name)
9. You would be in 2nd. Well, you passed the person in second place, not first.
10. Neither, the yolk of the egg is yellow (Duh)
11. One. If he combines all of his haystacks, they all become one big one.

10 points at Senior Boot Camp

Congratulations to Thorpe Senior Activity Center's who complete all the activities.

Mickie Parisi

Yvonne Beamon

Lucy Bosco

Teofila Ponsades

Nora Buckley

Ellie Jurasek

Marion O'Leary

Donna Stephens

Elaine Dealing

Lottie Crawford

Phyllis Cammarata

Hughes Avenue

Al Piscitilli

We had to move from Jefferson Place to Hughes Avenue for two reasons. In September 1939, the world went crazy and World War II started. People got good jobs and moved to affluent areas such as Parkchester, The Grand Concourse and the avenues parallel to it. This left a void in our neighborhood which was immediately filled with drug dealers, addicts and undesirable persons. It was not safe to go out at night and the area bordering Jefferson Place was so bad it was called Fort Apache. The police patrolled in groups of three and four. The second and most important reason for moving was that my father was so sick and tired of eating the bland tasteless and crustless American loaf bread made by Silvercup and Wonder Bread. We moved to the Belmont-Fordham section just two blocks to the Arthur Avenue Market where the Italian bread is a gourmet's delight.

In seventh grade I took a series of tests to determine my IQ which if it was high enough would allow me to skip 8th grade. My score was 130 which my brother

said was a mistake. He said someone mistakenly either put a one before my true score of 30 or put a 0 and 13---He was probably right but I skipped 8th grade and he didn't. Sibling rivalry at its finest.

Today Rite of Passage for teenagers is to spend their 16th birthday at the motor Vehicle Bureau to obtain their driving permit. In my day, Rite of Passage was to spend my 14th birthday at Burrough Hall to get working papers. After receiving them, I went to Horn & Hardart's Automat employment office for a job as a busboy. I worked most weekends for 50 cents an hour. Each day I worked 9 hours but was paid for only 8. The extra hour consisted of ½ hour for lunch and two 15 minute breaks. It was a never-ending mess of dishes that weighed a ton. I made 8 dollars a weekend. I saved three weeks pay (24 dollars) for my college tuition and the with the 4th week's pay (8 dollars) I went crazy and spent it like a drunken sailor. Today McDonalds pays 7.50 an hour for much less physical work. I wonder how many of those people save ¾ of their pay for college tuition. I worked there for three years till I graduated high school.

Everyone in my 9th grade class skipped 8th grade and that gave us binding common ground. Most Friday nights we would meet at a different classmate's house, not to discuss major events of the day, but to socialize and party. I will not elaborate on the partying but just say it was fun. When there were five weekends in a month I wouldn't work that Saturday but go in the morning with a group of my classmates to the city to either the Capitol or Paramount Theater to see a movie and a stage show. After the show we went to a Chinese restaurant on 50th street and Broadway for lunch. I always ordered Chicken Chow Mein. I spent 20 cents for carfare, 25 cents for the movie, and a dollar fifty-five for lunch for a total of 2 dollars. I still had 6 bucks for my monthly budget. High Finance!

Women in the White House

Marcy Piper

At one of the recent History classes, we watched a film about the wives of the Presidents. Some of them were very involved in helping their husband's make decisions. John Adams considered his wife to be his partner and in their letters they addressed each other as "Dear Partner". Other first ladies remained in the background.

Edith Wilson shielded her husband when he suffered a stroke and was making the decisions for him. Nancy Reagan was always deciding who would serve on her husband's staff; if she thought someone was not "doing right" by Ronald, that person was removed.

One of the wives, Betty Ford, was addicted to pain pills and alcohol. Her husband, Gerald Ford and the children convinced her to seek help. She told the public and did go into rehab. She, then, established the Betty Ford Clinic. She also let the public know when she was diagnosed with cancer and the treatments she would be getting. She was admired for her honesty and her hope was that it would convince others to seek help.

When Dolly Madison heard the British were marching into Washington, she would not leave the White House until she gathered a few items, such as Stuart's painting of George Washington and took them with her. Some of the White House Interior was not completed and she hung the laundry in the East Room.

There were wives who would choose a cause to work on while living in the White House. Jackie Kennedy redecorated the place with the emphasis on bringing back a great deal of historical furnishing, wallpaper, etc and she did a tour that was shown on TV. Lady Bird Johnson cleaned up the nation's highways and big billboards used for advertising and encouraged the planting of wild flowers. Along stretches of the Palisades Parkway, wildflowers were sowed as part of this initiative. This names just a few.

When the film featured Patricia Nixon, it was disturbing. We remembered those times when she reached out her hands to greet her husband when he was introduced, and walked on stage and he walked past her as if she was not there. He never discussed anything with her and only talked to Henry Kissinger. She withdrew from appearing with him as much as possible. People who knew her said

she was a warm, friendly person. Just imagining what her life must have been like makes you feel sympathetic toward her.

We all enjoyed this film. If you haven't attended a history group session, come and join us on a Monday morning