

This will be an Archive for Dot Smolnik's writings:
September 2016

Another month gone by getting us closer and closer to the end of 2016. Just counting off the months till the end of time. We have holidays in September, but few are celebrated. First there is V J Day, noted since 1945, Labor Day, first Monday, Patriot Day, Sept. 11, POW/MIA Recognition Day, Sept. 16, First Day of Autumn Sept. 22 and Gold Star Mother's Day is Sept. 25. I am not sure how many people will celebrate this day, but kids will be back in school the day after Labor Day.

The center has been busy during the summer with activities such as the usual games and cards, fund raisers, Men's Breakfasts and now two new things to do; the Walking Club and Coloring Club, and still serving lunches twice a week, some time to sell out crowds.

Many new books have been donated to the library and for that I want to say "thank you". I have purged the shelves, but we really are a little short of space. Drop in and see what we have. We are slowly gathering some large print books, which I hope will be returned by the people who have borrowed them so that others may enjoy them.

Thank you much. Until next time.

Dot

August 2016

Well, here it is August, the one month of the year that does not have a holiday. What can we celebrate??? Being alive, being healthy, having a home and food on the table, having family and friends. These are all very important and there so many people in the world who are not as fortunate.

Summer is nearly over; soon the leaves will be changing colors and being beautiful before falling to the ground. Autumn, my favorite time of year; if only winter did not come next. My family had some lovely company in July. My oldest brother's daughter from Tampa, FL. My middle brother's daughter from Boise. ID and my youngest brother's daughter from New Ipswich, NH, along with my daughter from Hooksett. The four cousins got together and spent a week at Hampton Beach and surrounding towns, with a special stop to visit me. It is wonderful to keep in touch with far away family. Looking forward to next time

That is it for this month, see you again in September.

Dot

July 2016

It has been brought to mind by a few people over this past several months that we do not say "thank you" very much to all of the people who help to keep the center going. We have been remiss. First, we should give a great big "thank you" to Albie Marro for all of the baked goods,

fruits, beggies, milk, meat and what ever for all of us to enjoy. Thanks to Moe and Arthur for keeping our place neat, clean, mowed, having tables and chairs set up and taken down for which ever activity is going on, mopping, waxing, scrubbing and generally keeping us in tip top shape. Thank you to the ladies at the front desk who meet and greet who ever comes in the front door and does what needs to be done in addition to answering the phone. Thanks also to the ladies and gentlemen in the kitchen and dining room who provide tasty and nutritious lunches twice a week. A big "thank you" also to Cedar Hill for the free lunch that was served at the center on April 8. That was a very nice treat. Thanks to the people who work the bingo games, Thank you to the members who help with fund raisers, exercise classes, organizing trips, both C.C.H.C and L.V.S.N. for blood pressure clinics and the health series which is offered every month, thank you to the volunteers who come in to prepare income taxes and property tax rebates every year. Thank you to our dedicated Board of Directors who put in a lot of time by attending two meetings a month, keep track of the By-Laws and make suer they are obeyed. It is a job that a lot of people do not want. Last but not least, thank you to all of our advertisers, without whom we could not exist.

We must remember that all of this is done on a volunteer basis, no one gets a pay check. Our only satisfaction is knowing that we may have make a little difference.

Dot

June 2016

The hill behind my father's house
Way oh, so very high,
For climbing in the summertime
Just my Dad and I.

A place to be a mentor, friend,
To kiss the wounds of life
And share the joys and ease the pain
of daily toil and strife,

The hill behind my father's house
Was just the place to see
Two great friends, hand in hand,
Just like my son and me.

The hill behind my father's house
Has been so very dear
To all the dads and all the sons
Both far away and near,

From this, my place, I chanced a view
That gave my heart a thrill,
My son and grandson, hand in hand,
Trudging up the hill.

So, find your house and find your hill

And find yourself again,
Touch the hand that touches yours
While life and time remain.

And grasp the heart and soul and mind
And with your being fill
This smaller version of yourself
With visions of the hill.

The hill behind my father's house
Is there for all to see,
Just reach your hand and touch your son's
And that's where you will be.

Donald Paul Laramie
Oct. 17, 1933 – Feb. 20, 2010

TOO FAR DOWN THE ROAD

The world was made round,
So that none of us could see
Too far down the road.

This is a type of Japanese poetry called Haiku. It always has just 17 syllables. My brother's first book of poetry has this title.

May 2016

May, Mother's month. One month out of the year dedicated to mothers and I think that they deserve more. I came across this poem which puts it all into words.

You filled my days with rainbow lights,
Fairytales and sweet dream nights.
A kiss to wipe away my tears,
gingerbread to ease my fears.
You gave the gift of life to me,
And then in love you set me free.
I thank you for your tender care,
For deep warm hugs and being there.
I hope that when you think of me,
A part of you you'll always see.

As most of us, I am a mother but I no longer have my mother with me; in thoughts and prayers. My mom has been gone for 25 years and I miss her every day. I still have questions that need her answers and pleasant memories that we could share. My daughter comes to me for answers and sharing memories and for that I will always be grateful. Her daughters come to her for answers and memories and I hope that we are always here for them.

Our time will end and life will go on with questions and answers to be carried on.

Dot

April 2016

Is it possible that it is already April? The time is flying by so quickly and April seemed to have snuck up on me. I don't know how that happened as my son's birthday is the first day of April and I didn't forget that. As we all know, we have had a very mild winter with little snow or bad weather and for that I am thankful. I hate winter. Let us hope for a nice, warm spring wick will bring us to a lovely summer. Speaking of summer, perhaps the "powers that be" could start planning a celebration. On July 14, 2016, we will celebrate fifteen years since our Grand Opening in 2001. We have been here for the people of Claremont and surrounding towns, offering many activities and services of all kinds. There have been many changes, members have come and gone. Joyce Lemire was our first director and did a great job of getting us started in the right direction. Her reign as director lasted from 2001 until 2006, when Bettie Stark took over and did a fabulous job of keeping things up and running until 2012 when Claire took over the director's seat. This is no easy task. I am sure that there will be cook outs, barbeques, breakfasts, yard sales and the big Spring Fling. Come on out and see what we have to offer.

Another month gone by, see you in May

Dot Smolnik

March 2016

Happy Birthday St. Patrick and all of the rest of you who have a birthday in March. Another month is over and done with for this year and we are getting closer and closer to Spring. Of course we really should not complain as our winter has been great compared to other parts of our great country. Between tornadoes, blizzards, ice storms and flooding, a great number of people have been left homeless or worse, have lost their lives. We should be grateful.

I understand that there is talk about maybe raising the dues from \$15.00 to \$20.00 a year. I hope that doesn't happen. I know that it is not a big increase but it may be a hard ship on some. Very few of us bring home a pay check every week, we get by on our Social Security and if we are lucky a small pension. Prices of groceries have jumped, clothing prices are up, if you have insurance with the Concord Group, those premiums have gone up, and nobody received an increase in their social security check, in fact, because of an increase in health insurance, most people are getting a smaller check than last year.

When we first operated in this building the amount charged for dues was \$5.00 a year and we have close to 1000 members. After a couple of years that amount was increased to \$10.00 and we lost 500 members. We didn't make any money on that deal. The dues was raised again to \$15.00 and we still lost members and went down to around 400. I guess membership now is around 400 to 500.

We got more for our money in the past. The bulletin, I cannot call it a news letter was mailed to us, we have lost the gift shop, the 1500 book library, the computer room that had eight computers (donated) and two printers, now we have two computers and no printers, our piano is gone, along with our three stationary bikes (all obtained with grants.) True, maybe these things were not used much, but they were here if we wanted to use them and they cost us nothing.

What do we get for our \$15.00 yearly dues? Our lunch is \$4.00 instead of \$5.00 but anybody can come in off the street and use our facility for any activity, except the computers, member or not. I can see no need to even pay dues.

Well I have said my peace and hope that I have not hurt any feelings, but I spoke the truth. We will just have to wait and see what happens.

Until next time, if there is one...
Dot Smolnik

February 2016

Hello young lovers, where ever you are. Here's hoping that you all have some one to spend Valentines Day with, be it husband, wife, sweet heart, children, grand children or a good friend. Also, let us hope that every body gets candy or flowers. Let us all sit back and hope. February, another month. Well, it is the short one but happens to be one day longer this year. The winter is flying by and we haven't really had much. We have been very fortunate compared to the rest of the country.

We also have Groundhog Day this month. Do you think that he will see his shadow? No matter, we will have six more weeks of winter, either way. I was married on February 12, 1949 and it was 20 below zero with a brand new snow fall. I always wanted to wear white velvet, and I did and I went to church wearing my future sister-in-law's fur coat. It was very pretty shiny, black skunk. Do not laugh, it really was really pretty and I was toasty warm. That's it for now, see you in March. Have a good one.

Dot Smolnik

--New Years Day - January--

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Welcome 2015; it didn't take you long to get here. A few years ago I read a book, written by a well known writer from Hanover and her book was entitled "Over The Hill, You Pick Up Speed." How true that seems.

Time does seem to go by faster and I often wonder if I will have time to do all that I plan on. Now is the time to get out and enjoy life and all that it has to offer. If you are not busy enough, think about becoming a volunteer. There is so much satisfaction in giving of one's time and talent. I have been volunteering for many years and have enjoyed most of it. There have been minor pitfalls and obstacles but it is always good to get together with old friends and meet new ones. Whatever you decide on, get out and enjoy life; it's there for you.

May I wish you all a very Happy, Healthy New Year.

Smiles increase your face value.

Dot Smolnik

--December 2015--

December 2015 – The end of another year and where did it all go? Time moves faster and faster and I always wonder about what has been accomplished. I recently celebrated eighty six years and I really wonder about where that time went. I have outlived everyone in my family for the past five generations. It is very hard to be the oldest one around because I am asked a lot of questions that I just don't know the answers to, but I try and it keeps all of on

our toes. I celebrated this year with my two children, four grand children and six great grand children, including our newest Ryleigh Mae Smolnik who was born on October 5, 2015. Of course she is just beautiful and will be walking and talking before we know it.

Another year has gone by and once again it's time for Christmas. Decorate the tree, string the lights, hang the stockings, send out the cards, clean the house and cook and bake. Now, we are ready. Christmas is wonderful and should be spent with family and friends and it is especially nice if you have little ones just to enjoy their faces filled with awe as they wait for Santa.

Let us not forget the true meaning of Christmas - the birth of the blessed Christ child.

Christmas is celebrated all over the world, in many different ways and languages. With that said, just let me wish you all a very Merry Christmas, Joyeaux Noelle, Feliz Navidad, Buono Natale, Wesolych Swiat, Rozhdestvom Khristovyim and Happy Hanukkah to all and to all a Good Night.

--October 2015--

Another month and this year is nearly over. October, the scary month with Goblins, Ghosts and Witches, all getting ready for Halloween. October is also one of the prettiest month with the leaves turning, the apples ripe and ready for picking and the pumpkins sitting in the gardens ready to be picked. The most colorful time of the year, while getting us ready for winter white. The rakes will be taken out and the lawn mowers will be put away and shovels ready on the door step. Let us hope for a little better winter than we had last year. That was one for the books. We all know to expect snow and cold, but we don't need the ice and the freezing rain. October is lovely with crisp mornings, warm and sunny afternoons, cooler evenings and chilly nights and we all hope that lasts for awhile. We will end the month with Halloween and big and little Trick or Treaters and hope that they all stay safe and full of treats and no tricks. See you in November.

Dot Smolnik