



The ROGERSON RECORD

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From The Desk Of President James F. Seagle, Jr.



Did you ever wish for the “good old days”? We are bombarded in the media with wistful recollections of the time when America still had her moral compass and everyone possessed pristine virtue, pure patriotism and lived in three-generation households. If you really believe that there was such a time, I recommend a history course or two: or failing that, go online and look at the case of Emmet Till.

There are many allusions to the post-World War II fifties as this time. There was prosperity in the US and we were clearly the preeminent power and economic superstar of the planet. What is missed in the retelling is the plight of the “under classes” in our homeland and what was happening to women and children. I remember an incident that

happened to me in the fifth grade in Columbus, Ohio. It was 1957 and at recess one day, a new student from Georgia showed me a picture (a real snapshot) of the lynching of a black man which happened in his uncle’s field. That image is seared into my memory. There was relative prosperity but also there was terrible racism, rampant child and spousal abuse, kept quiet as part of “family business.”

If not the fifties, then the halcyon days must have come in the previous generation. One is hard-pressed to see the depression era as anything but tragic: millions of poor, jobless people, and national uncertainty (not unlike today) as our nation and worldwide other industrial nations were struggling to maintain social order and restore economic equilibrium. Then if you go back one more generation, you will find children in sweat shops and repression of immigrants; going back another will bring you to our enslavement of human beings for the purpose of profit. So, when were these good old days, I ask you?

Go to the 13th century in the southernmost part of

Continued inside

3 Cheers for Volunteers A Slice of Rogerson Life



Volunteer staff and others helped make the Welcome Home! gala a success. Pictured above (back row) Islande Icart, Chelsea Jurena, Sheila Place, Melissa Stockbridge, Anne Morton Smith, Debbie Cawley, Lisa Talayco, Mary Moynihan, Pierre Dugue, Olese Purice, (middle) Barbara Quiroga, Keri Aulita, Jeanne O’Rourke, Lisa Natalichio, (front) Melissa Tomey, Jenny Andrews, and Jen Busa.

Mohammed Ali once said, “Service to others is the payment you make for your space on earth.” Although we may not be boxing champions, there’s no doubt that the strong spirit of volunteerism runs rampant at Rogerson.

Welcome Home! in its 11th year, is a critical fund (and friend) raiser. This October, Keri Aulita, Director of Annual Giving, recruited over 20 volunteers from the Rogerson staff and beyond to help run the event.

“It’s great to see everyone working together for such an important evening for Rogerson. It’s a high-energy and high-impact event, so it’s important that we stay focused, energetic and engaged, but when the end of the night rolls around, we all take some time to unwind, relax, and have some fun together. That’s my favorite part...when I get to thank everyone and congratulate the team on a job well done.”

Kathy Foley, Springhouse Executive Director, is a veteran Rossi Parade participant for “Team Rogerson” and also runs a volunteer prayer and chat group for those affected with dementia. She explains, “Volunteering gives people a sense

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Employee Profile

Leyre Gillis & Chelsea Jurena

While the Record usually profiles one stellar employee at once, this issue is the exception — this month's employee spotlight focuses on the happening HR team of Leyre Gillis and Chelsea Jurena. Together with Sandy McWhirter, Vice President, Administration, they organize Rogerson recruiting, staffing issues, and benefits for our 300-plus person organization.

After having worked at Rogerson for two years, Leyre was just recently promoted to Director of Human Resources, which means that now she has "more responsibility and more liability," a status with which not everyone would be so comfortable. But Leyre, who earned a law degree from Suffolk University, truly enjoys her work, which makes the mantle of her job easier to wear.

After coming from a super sales-oriented position in recruiting at Bank of America, she finds Rogerson to be a "very comfortable" place to work. "I love it here. It's absolutely my favorite job so far," she says. "If you work hard and



Photo by: Jeanne O'Rourke

do your job well, Rogerson really treats its employees like adults, which is not necessarily the case at other companies."

Chelsea Jurena, Human Resources Associate, came to Rogerson with valuable HR experience from retail giant Target, but says Rogerson has been "an incredible first job after graduation." Chelsea, who almost went to culinary school and now counts cooking and baking among her hobbies, earned a degree in business administration with an emphasis in HR, from Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania.

As it turns out, not only are Chelsea and Leyre talented at their jobs, they each harbor secret skills. "My apartment is too small for one now, but I played the piano for twelve years," says Chelsea. Her musical background doesn't stop there: she played the cello for 6 years, and participated in the percussion ensembles in both high school and college.

And although you wouldn't know it from her American accent, Leyre was born in Madrid and is fluent in Spanish. "I lived there until I was two, and I spent almost every summer since I was ten in Spain. I even got married there," she says affectionately of her home away from home.

So now that you know more about the dynamic duo in HR, don't hesitate to stop in and say hello to the friendly folks in the corner offices.

From the Desk (Continued)

France, there was a community (one might say a "religious cult") called the Cathars who might have created a time deserving of the moniker "good old days." These people lived in harmony - simple folk who tilled the land. They followed the teachings of Jesus, but were not part of any church. To become a leader in this sect, to have authority, one had to be good. There's a concept we might do well to endorse. Your neighbors recognized your "goodness" and called you "parfait" (perfect). This society persisted until the king of France and the pope condemned them as heretics, i.e. they would not send money. These two leaders sent mercenaries to end the Cathar "cult" and thousands were burned alive. We know from history that it is very dangerous to be too good.

Are you depressed yet? Well, cheer up. Try to accept the notion that right now is the "good old days." Why not? They are the only ones that we have and the only ones that we can affect. Humans are programmed (by instinct or the divine) to help one another and they find great meaning and joy in doing so. Unfortunately, on the less helpful side we can be paranoid and vicious animals which lash out violently at perceived threats. The "good old days" should have more of the former and less of the latter. We have the power to bring this about, this revered time, by helping one another and resisting the impulse to fear and hatred. As the holidays approach and people are longing for peace and good cheer, let's give it a try. Let's create our own "good old days."

A Closer Look (Continued)

of purpose... It has given me enormous personal pleasure to know that I have been able to be a part of the spiritual enriching of others who, even with advanced dementia, do not forget their religious traditions. It is a gift I have been able to give myself."

Doing well by doing good seems to be a common thread in the tapestry of the Rogerson fabric - a heartening thought. Congratulations to all of you who give of yourself to others, during the holidays and beyond.

Getting to Know Leyre & Chelsea

Favorite Restaurant L: Bay Burger, NYC
C: Zaftigs, Brookline

Place of Residence L: Roslindale
C: Quincy

At Rogerson Since... L: June, 2007
C: April, 2009

Hobbies L: Photography
C: Cooking, Baking,
Hiking

Dignity, Longevity, Vitality Rogerson's Mission in Action

Although some of us may be dreading the impending snow, whom among us doesn't look forward to the long-held winter holiday traditions of our family?

Mother and daughter team Josephine and Barbara Cooper are *both* Rogerson residents — Florence and Roslindale House, respectively — who very much

look forward to their holiday traditions, built over generations. Nine children in the family made for a boisterous and busy Christmas, but they always took time out to pose on the stairway for a family photo in their striped nightgowns and pajamas, "all sent by Aunt Louise," says Josephine.

"My father would always go out Christmas Eve to get a tree

and come back with a sad Charlie Brown type. We always joked by calling it the 'package tree' because all of the packages fit into the bare spaces!" Barbara laughs.

Rogerson House resident Gertrude Dubrovsky fondly recalled Hanukkahs she spent at her family farm in New Jersey, where a number of Jewish families from New York City had settled. "We weren't especially observant, but we did

follow some of the traditions," she explained, "including lighting the menorah." And even through the Hanukkah season Gertrude had to do her chores: cleaning the chicken eggs. "The farm was a wonderful place to grow up," she enthused, "and a lovely place to spend the holidays."



Rogerson residents Barbara (l) and Josephine (r) Cooper reminisce about past (and present) holiday traditions.

& News Events

Volunteer of the Year



Photo by: Lisa Nantichio

Anne Morton Smith, Rogerson Vice President, Development & Community Relations, was honored with the 2009 Community Service Award at MassAging's recent annual meeting. (Above right, with Sandy McWhirter). Rogerson veteran Board member John Cupples was also

honored with the Board Leadership Award.



Photo by: Beeky Annis

Veteran's Day

Several Pond Home residents participated in the raising of the General's Flag. Pictured (l-r): Marjorie "Olva" Taylor, Donald Brennan, and Robert Stewart.

The Rogerson Review

Books and movies that show elders and those with disabilities living meaningful and engaged lives are all around!

The Book Another Country: Navigating the Emotional Terrain of Our Elders; Mary Pipher, PhD

The Reviewer Sheila Place, Director of Programs

The Verdict Mary Pipher, author of *Raising Ophelia*, discusses the trials and tribulations of helping elders receive care and assistance from family, friends and professionals who may not understand the intricacies of their generation. She gives advice as both a professional and personal caregiver as she struggled with the guilt and difficulties of helping her mother through the last year of her life. I highly recommend this book for anyone who has an elder in their life or may one day become an elder (and hopefully that will be all of you.) Enjoy!

To read the book for yourself, check it out from Rogerson's lending library, located in the Communications and Marketing Associate's office at One Florence St., Boston, MA 02131.

ROGERSON ROCKS ROSSI OPEN STUDIOS



Rogerson Roslindale day programs both got into the act during Roslindale Open Studios. The dementia day program hosted Roberto "Zach" Castro (left) for a live painting demonstration and a showing of

thirteen amazing pieces of art recently donated by The Art Connection. Lisa Talayco (right), Social Service Supervisor at the adult day health program, organized a special showing of artwork by prolific program participant artists Melvin Cook, Jerome Mack, John Newton, and Felipe Mendizbal.

HR Focus

Leyre Gillis

Director of Human Resources



Open enrollment time is here again! Every year around this time, Rogerson Communities employees have the opportunity to make changes to their benefits as they wish.

The deadline to turn in your benefits paperwork was December 1st. If you missed the deadline, please contact the Human Resources office immediately. Even if you don't wish to make any changes at all to your current benefits, there is a form that must be filled out by all benefits-eligible employees.

Outside of open enrollment, the only way you are allowed to make changes to your benefits is if you experience a 'qualifying event' (please let

HR know within 31 days of experiencing such an event). This means that open enrollment is a very valuable and important period of time for all employees! Please review the materials that were mailed to you in November carefully and make thoughtful selections when it comes to your benefit plans.

Your benefits are an important part of your total compensation, and the HR office works hard each year to provide you with the very best benefits available at

the most competitive cost possible. Should you have questions about any of your benefits, please feel free to reach out to anyone in the HR office – our doors are always open!

Positions Available

Check out the Rogerson properties and programs that are currently hiring and a list of open positions:

www.rogerson.org



Healthy Rogerson

If holidays are supposed to be fun, then why do so many of us end up feeling like a Grinch during the holiday season? One word: S-T-R-E-S-S. For many people, holidays include fighting traffic, entertaining relatives,

overloading credit cards, and overeating. It's a pattern many of us fall into year in and year out. This year, stop the insanity! Here's how:

1) Stay out of holiday debt.

How many games/sweaters/chew toys do your kids (or nieces/dogs) really



need? How about suggesting a family grab to cut costs? Or why not trying baking presents? They don't have to be Martha-perfect, but something from the heart/oven is always appreciated.

2) **Keep moving.** Exercise is always a great stress reliever, but it's easy to skip your workout when holiday demands get too

high. Try not to, and your body (and family) will thank you for it. 3) **Don't go overboard.** Do elaborate meals or gingerbread mansions hang over your head in a holiday haze? Then simplify. If you're realistic about how much time you have to prepare, you can enjoy yourself and leave the bah-humbugs to someone else.

New Hires & Promotions

Marie Samedi-Zougbo
LPN
Roslindale ADHP

Erica Fernandez
Assistant Property Manager
Roslindale/Florence House

Aura Hernandez
Accounts Payable Assistant
Administration

Michael Garcia
Maintenance Staff
Roslindale House

Natasha Foster
CNA
Rogerson House

Sherley Mardy
CNA
Rogerson House

Gila Yudewitz
CNA
Rogerson House

Yesenia Beato
Promoted to
Assistant Property Manager
at Spencer House

Wanda Hunter
Promoted to
Assistant Property Manager
at Council Tower



Rogerson Egleston Adult Day Health Program participants were treated to a tasty lunch at Springhouse. Alice Brown (left) and Eric Hutchinson (right) share a moment with Sheila Caccavaro, Activities Coordinator at Springhouse, before dessert.

The
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Story ideas? News items? Comments?
Email news@rogerson.org or call 617-469-5847.

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