

# 21st Century Spirituality

## Faith in Action



### Music to Remember Program – Park Creek Senior Living Community

By Carol Wolf

When I was reading the January issue of this paper I saw that Park Creek was doing 'A Music to Remember Program'. I had just finished reading an article on The Legacy of Music. It talked about how music has an incredible ability to touch our hearts and bring back memories. It also had several quotations:

'Music is the divine way to tell beautiful, poetic things to the ears.' Pablo Casals

'Though I am a physicist, I see my life in terms of music.' Albert Einstein

'To me, the greatest pleasure of writing is not what it's about, but the music the words make.' Truman Capote

'After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music.' Aldous Huxley

'Music produces a kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without.' Confucius

I love music. My husband Dick also loves music and sings with several choral groups. I have to say, as much as I love music, I do not have a good voice

but I know all the words.

I called Geri Robinson the Administrator and made an appointment to meet with her and Robin Grandin, who has created the Music to Remember Program.

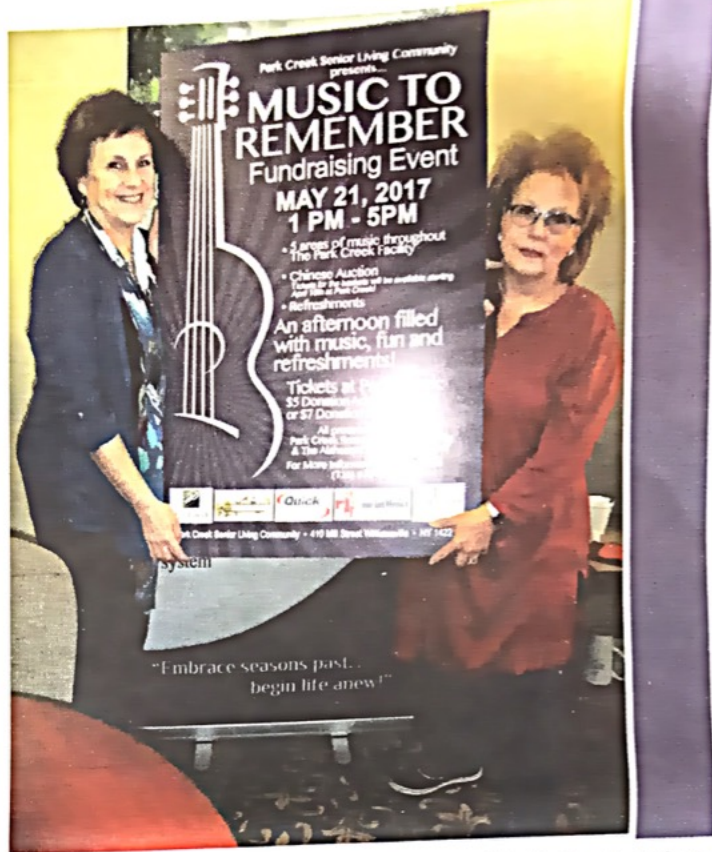
I got to thinking about Park Creek and how I was invited to be on their advisory board when they opened in September 2007. Geri Robinson, Administrator and the

staff wanted Park Creek to be a community that supported independence, encouraged a healthy lifestyle, provided peace of mind, meet the changing needs of seniors, and to give the residents the opportunity to have fun.

Right from the beginning they have done exactly that.

Then in January 2013 I called Geri to find out how things were

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going. I met with her, had a tour of the facility and I met Peter Miller whom they all called the "resident poet". Geri said he had written a poem for every resident in the building and after talking with him a few minutes, he wrote a poem about me. I still have it. It started "A Lovely Lady, Oh Yes. Indeed she is OK! Yes indeed with brownish Red Hair, so nice OK.----- It went on and on. It was so sweet of him. Geri told me he passed away a while ago.

So now it is January 2018. Geri began by telling me it has been a little over 10 years and she said, "I feel very blessed to be here. This is my labor of love. For me - this is my family. The staff here and

the residents is what I am all about. I am lucky to be here and share this ministry of working with people and to make their lives better."

I asked Geri where she grew up and how she chose this field. She said "I grew up in New Jersey, then I came to Buffalo to go to Rosary Hill which is now Daeman College. I decided to take Counseling for my Master's and I decided I really like working with seniors. I actually turned down this job offer three times before I accepted it." I asked her why and she said Park Creek was just opening as a 94 bed Assisted Living Facility of which, 38 beds were Memory Care and she wasn't sure she could do the job. Before that it had been Pilgrims Landing, Assisted Living.

She went on to say it is important to take care of the 'whole' person. I say to people you did

**Park Creek**  
Senior Living Community

- Three home-cooked meals
- Personally tailored Care Services
- Stimulating social, education & recreational activities
- Beautiful full-sized Chapel
- Medication management
- Access to 24-hour personal assistance
- Memory care programming

not come here to just sit around you came here to enjoy your life living here. You are going to dance, you're going to sing you are not going to just sit around, you are going to have fun. We have all kinds of programs.

We have therapy programs. We have a teacher from the Williamsville Schools who teaches painting with Water colors. We have had dance therapy, we have 2 people who come in twice a week for Spiritual Care. We believe in a holistic approach.

I believe that is what music does for us. It is something we use on the Memory Care Unit especially now with Robin Grandin's participation.

I went on to ask Robin how she got involved with the Music programs here. She said she is a Musician and A Web Designer. She said "I grew up in the Town of Tonawanda and have been involved with music all my life."

I went to Villa Maria and Daemen College got my Degree in Music. In the beginning it was Rock and Roll and I played 5 or 6 different instruments. I majored in voice, Flute, electric guitar, penny whistle, etc. I am also a song writer. I traveled all over the country for many years with Rainbow Group until they broke up in 1991. Then I moved to Nashville, Tenn. and played with 90% of the Country recording artists. I was in a national group called Mustang Sally and was on an independent record label. When I came back here in 2005, met Dave Grandin and we got married. We stayed in this area and began playing all around here and recording music. Robin went on to tell me her Mom was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2012 and it got worse. My mother came here to live in Memory Care Unit in 2015. So I wrote a song, 'Memories of the

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- Gift Cards & Certificates
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- Case of Canned Wet Pate Food
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