

Leisure World News

OF MARYLAND

March 6, 2020 • Published Twice a Month • residents.lwmc.com • leisureworldmaryland.com

Daughter Publishes Late Father's Comedic Writings



Author and resident Diane Perlmutter Reynolds flips through her late father's book, "Glimpses of Happiness: Laughter for the Soul," a collection of humorous vignettes she compiled and published late last year. Photo by Kimberly Y. Choi, Leisure World News

by Kimberly Y. Choi,
Leisure World News

Author and resident Diane Perlmutter Reynolds knew her father capable of finding humor in the quotidian. The late Jerome H. Perlmutter, who was also a Leisure World resident, penned brief humorous takes on topics ranging from lottery tickets to throat phlegm.

Last year, Reynolds published her father's writings as a book titled "Glimpses of Happiness: Laughter for the Soul." She is now promoting the work and is scheduled to hold a book signing on Saturday, March 28, from 1-3 p.m. at the Barnes & Noble bookstore in Rockville.

In "Glimpses," a fictional PTA

meeting results in a quarrel over the right word for the color of school buses. In another piece, a psychologist describes the case of an overly enthusiastic playgoer as "standing ovation syndrome."

Reynolds became motivated to collect Perlmutter's comedic pieces when she moved to Leisure World in 2016 to be with her mother, Evelyn Perlmutter, and felt keenly the importance of remembering and honoring her father. She hopes to use his words to induce cheer as he would have been eager to do.

Hundreds of Glimpses

Each "Glimpse" was initially handwritten, scrawled in pocket

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Town Hall to Focus on County Issues

by Leisure World News

The Montgomery County Council hosts a senior town hall meeting at Leisure World on Wednesday, March 11, at 9-10:30 a.m. (doors open at 8 a.m.) in the Clubhouse II auditorium.

The meeting, which is open to the public, will focus on community issues facing Montgomery County. Attendees will have an opportunity to voice their opinions on specific issues and ask questions of the Councilmembers in an organized,

but informal, setting. County health officer Dr. Travis Gayles also joins the panel to address concerns about the coronavirus and other health-related topics.

"Reaching out to our senior population is a top priority for the Council," said Council president Sidney Katz in a Feb. 26 press release. "Our seniors are a great resource and it is important that we connect with this population



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Board Moves Forward on Golf Course and Gate Access Projects

by Stacy Smith, Leisure World News

McDonald Design Group Inc. was selected by the Leisure World Community Corporation (LWCC) board of directors at its Feb. 25 regular meeting to complete the Golf Course Enhancement Plan, which is targeted to begin in the fall of 2021.

If implemented, the plan would modernize the golf course's design and functionality and improve play and accessibility.

The Golf and Greens Advisory Committee recommended the company, which

presented its plan for repairs and enhancements to the golf course at a LWCC board meeting in December.

The Golf Course Enhancement Plan is one of two projects slated to round out the community's Facilities Enhancement Plan (FEP), which was developed in 2013 as a strategic plan for renovating existing, and constructing new, Trust facilities.

Gate Access

After vigorous debate, the

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Would you like to contribute to Leisure World's future? See page 3 for details.

Board

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LWCC board approved a contract to purchase software and hardware from K9 All Systems Inc. for the community's coming automated gate access system.

If implemented, residents' vehicles would be fitted with transponders that transmit signals to the gates using radio-frequency identification (RFID) technology, allowing the vehicles automatic entrance.

The current plan includes having an unmanned, resident-only gate at the Norbeck Road entrance, while both residents and visitors would have access to the Main Gate and Connecticut Gate.

Some board members balked at accepting a contract before more policies and

plans regarding the system's implementation and maintenance are adopted, but others signaled that the new gate system would be tested significantly before it becomes operational, and that policies and procedures would be implemented but could change as needed.

The automated gates are not expected to be operational until the end of 2020.

Strategic Planning

Dr. Arthur Popper, Special Strategic Advisory Committee chairperson, provided an update to the board on the strategic planning process.

Consultants from George Mason University (GMU) are holding two community meetings at Leisure World in March, and all residents are invited to sign up to attend one of them.

Results from the meetings,

as well as results from the resident survey, focus groups and other data, will help consultants develop a strategic plan for Leisure World's future later this year, Popper said.

GMU consultant Dr.

Terry Clower plans to brief the LWCC board on initial findings from the meetings and other research later this month, he added.

For more information about the meetings, see page 3 of this edition of Leisure World News.

MedStar

Kellia Giambrone, manager of operations at MedStar Health medical center, also provided updates to the board. Several medical professionals have recently joined the team, and patients now have direct access to physical therapy. For details on this program, see page 20.

Cash Flow

The board ended its meeting with a discussion on the possibility of increasing the community's Resales Fee from two to three percent in an effort to both generate more revenue and keep down the cost of living at Leisure World.

The Resales Fee is a percentage of a home's selling price paid by the buyer. Currently, these funds are used exclusively for FEP projects.

Board meeting agenda packets and meeting minutes are available online at (residents.lwmc.com).

The next regular meeting of the LWCC board of directors is on Tuesday, March 31, at 9:30 a.m. in Clubhouse I. Board meetings are open to all residents unless legally closed.

Book

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et-sized notebooks complete with edits and scribbles. When Perlmutter started them, he had a brain tumor and was depressed as his activities diminished.

A therapist asked him what he liked to do. Having had a long career in writing and editing, and having authored "A Practical Guide to Effective Writing," published by Random House, Perlmutter replied that he liked to write.

Over the next years, Perlmutter kept up his cognitive ability and his spirits by writing more than 500 comedic observations of everyday life. A member of the Writers of Leisure World, he stood out among the Group for producing these witty pieces instead of the more common memoir essays, according to Reynolds.

Reynolds's mother supported her husband's pastime by helping him type up his writings, but they did not find a publisher. When the book was eventually published last year, she was "in awe," according to Reynolds.

Promoting Laughter

Reynolds describes herself as "respectful but tenacious" in her entrepreneurial efforts. For her, publicizing the book is a way of sharing her father's legacy. "Every day when I show [the book]," she says, "I think of him."

Reynolds, who has worked in marketing, first presented the volume to a Barnes & Noble store before the holidays in a Christmas stocking, noting its appropriate size and merry tone. The staff later invited her back for this month's book signing.

Reynolds sees the "Glimpses" as widely relatable doses of humor that can appeal to any participant in

modern American life, and specifically markets the book to populations that she feels could benefit from appreciating life's simple joys.

"I'm looking at hospitals; I looked at [Veterans Affairs]. I'm looking at people who are also recovering from illnesses and injuries, to be able to pick up something and smile," she says.

Reynolds points to the line from Perlmutter's introduction to the book that professes "a deep respect and an abiding faith in American's healers and helpers." In that spirit, she has sought ways to use his writings to foster joy and health. A portion of proceeds from the book's sales is donated to SOME, or So Others Might Eat, a non-profit organization fighting poverty and homelessness in Washington, D.C.

A Laugh for Every Month

Reynolds also collected some of the "Glimpses" in a calendar for residents of assisted living facilities. The finished product was distributed at the neighboring retire-

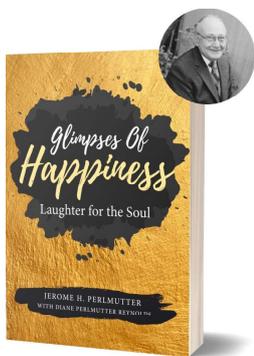
ment community Bedford Court.

She had heard coloring books could provide stimulation for people with cognitive impairments, so she hired an illustrator to design coloring pages to accompany each "Glimpse." At the end of the calendar is a space encouraging recipients to write their own short pieces after Perlmutter's manner.

Reynolds brought a copy of the calendar to her father's grave. "I said, 'Mom, let's just go over there and show him what we did,'" she says with a chuckle. "I took the calendar over and said, 'Can you believe this?'"

She thinks he would have been very proud.

"Glimpses of Happiness" is soon to be available at the library in Clubhouse I. In addition to the Barnes & Noble book signing later this month, Reynolds will appear at the Day of the Book Festival on Sunday, April 26, in Kensington; more information can be found at (DayoftheBook.com).



"Glimpses of Happiness: Laughter for the Soul" and its writer, the late Jerome H. Perlmutter, graphic courtesy Diane Perlmutter Reynolds



Perlmutter's scribbled notebooks collected by his daughter, photo courtesy Diane Perlmutter Reynolds